Libya denies U.S. slavery charge

CAIRO (AP) - Libya charges that the United States is trying to undermine Libya's good name by accusing it of receiving women and children abducted from southern Sudan as slaves. The official pews agency JANA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying he was "astonished and amazed" that Libya was implicated in such a report. This false accusation against Libya wants to harm the reputation of the Great Jamahirya (Libya) and destroy its image in the world," the offcial said. The charge was in a document compiled by the U.S. embas Sudan and released in Washington. It accused forces of Sudan's fundamentalist government of routinely abducing women and children in the south and sending them to work as forced labour in farms inside Sudan or in neighbouring Libya. Reports of slavery have circulated for years as Sudan fought a 10-year-old civil war (Khartoum rejects summit, page 2). The U.S. diplomatic report was the first mention that southerners were exported as slaves to Libya. "The Libyan Arab people... who have promoted workers to become partners because workers no matter how well-paid will always remain slaves, strongly reject these false claims," the



Riyadh refutes Libyan charges

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia Friday refuted Libyan claims that it was obstructing the flow of Libyan pilgrims to Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an unnamed official source as saying hundreds of Libyans already have arrived in the kingdom via third countries. The official source, which in Saudi Arabia is the equivalent of a government spokesman, said 5,520 Libyans have been granted visas for this year's Haj rinuals, which climax at the end of this month. The Libyan partiament Monday appealed to King Fahd to ignore the international sanctions imposed against the Tripoli government and let Libyans fly their country's aircraft to Mecca, Libya made similar appeals to other Muslim countries and to the 51-member, Jeddah-based Organisato other Muslim countries and to the 51-member, Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in a bid to wedge a crack in 13-month-old sanctions imposed against Tripoli. According to the Libyan news agency, the General People's Congress told King Fahd in a telegram Monday that "subjecting the holy places to political vaciliations contradicts the wishes of God." Responding to the Libyan telegram, the Saudi source said the kingdom was not responsible for against the olderims' source said the kingdom was not responsible for arranging the pilgrims' transportation to the kingdom.

Volume 17 Number 5307

AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1993 THU EL QU'DEH 23, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

iraq drills oil well with 5,600 bpd output

BAGHDAD (R) - Iraqi engineers have drilled an oil well in the southern province of Najaf, yielding 5,600 barrels per day of rude, the official weekly. Alef Sa, reported Friday. "A fountain of black gold gushed out amid the golden sand of Najaf desert," the magazine said. "Iraqi explorers drilled three oil wells, one of them has a production capacity of 5,600 bpd," Alef Ba said. No other details were available. IJN trade sanctions imposed soon after the 1990 Gulf crisis bar Iraqi exports including its lifeblood oil. But Iraq, with the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia, is pressing ahead with exploration. Oil officials say they have launched a drilling and exploration campaign in areas untapped before. They say the main area is the desert stretching from the outskirts of Baghdad to Jordan in the west.

British MPs visit Shiite marshlands

BAGHDAD (R) — Two leftwing members of parliament (MPs) from Britain went on a fact-finding tour of the Shiite Muslim marshlands of southern Iraq Friday. The area is within the "no-fly" zone imposed last year by the United States, Britain and France with the declared aim of protecting Shiite dissidents from attack by Iraqi aircraft. George Galloway and Tam Dalyell, from the opposition Labour Party, arrived in Iraq Wednesday to explore the effect of U.N. trade sanctions and tour the southern marshes. The deputies, outspoken opponents of Britain's participation in the 1991 Gulf war to oust Iraq from Kuwait, are the first British MPs to visit government-controlled areas of Iraq since the conflict.

4 beheaded in Saudi Arabia

PTYADH (AP) — Four Pakistains were beheaded Friday for smuggling drugs into Saudi Arabia, the Interior Ministry announced. The four were identified as Amin Al Rahman Bagh Mohammad, who was beheaded in Jeddah, and Abdul Qayoun Saeed Rahman, Gholam Hussein Haji Khan and Nader Khan Shahzad who were beheaded in Riyadh. About 70 people have been executed for drug smuggling, most of them Pakistanis.

Teresa hospitalised with broken ribs

ROME (AP) - Mother Teresa who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work with the poor and sick, has been hospitalised with three ribs after she tripped while going to chapel, her doctor said Friday. "She's well," said Dr. Vincenzo Bilotta, "but suffering strong pain." The cardiology and genatrics specialist said he had visited his patient Friday morning in a Rome hospital. "She's been in the hospital since yesterday (Thursday) morning. She fell going to chapel," Mr. Bilotta said. She had been staying at a convent on the outskirts of Rome, one of the conyents for her nuns which operate in 95 countries. "She tripped. You know those shoes, those sandals she wears," Dr. Bilotta added. "Given her conditions of health, it could be a serious thing," Dr. Bilotta added about the frail, 82-year-old nun.

'N. Korea may have nuclear arms in 1994'

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea will be capable of developing two or three nuclear weapons as soon as next year if its nuclear weapons development programme is not halted. South Korea's intelligence agency has quoted as saying Friday. Yonhap news agency quoted the National Security Planning Agency (NSPA) as saying in a report to parliament that Pyongyang would be able to develop two or three nuclear bombs by 1994 or 1995 unless its nuclear development programme was stopped immediately. The report came two days after the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution urging Pyongyang to rescind its March 12 announcement it was pulling out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to allow special inspections of two previously undeclared sites suspected of holding weapons-grade

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan has said it did not believe it could make progress in peace talks with Israel unless other Arabs, particularly the Palestimans. also moved forward.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Maiali told a news conference Thursday at the end of a three-week session of talks: "Peace should be comprehensive and for all the parties concerned. So we cannot see that we are running when other tracks are still slow in their motion."

He said Jordan had seen positive signs early in the round and so had agreed to set up working. groups with Israel to discuss details of a peace agreement.

The groups cover subjects such as borders, water, energy, the environment, refugees, banking and tourism

But Dr. Majali said the early signs "did not materialise up to this minute into real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track."

Once these signals are translated into a proper action, especially in the field, and the other tracks will move forward, Jordan will be ready to move forward," he said.

The ninth round of peace talks began on a hopeful note but ended with Arab and Israeli disappointment.

Even uprecedented U.S. intervention, in the form of a proposal to bridge the gaps between Israelis and Palestinians on a joint declaration about their talks, failed to overcome the im-

"It is disconcerting and embar-



Haidar Abdul Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate to Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Thursday talks to

the press in Washington as Syrian negotiator Mouaffak Al Allaf (right) looks on (AFP photo)

rassing to tell you again that we have made no progress," Palesti-nian delegation head Haidar Abdul Shafi said Thursday see parate story).

After 18 months, we are where we were after the first several rounds," said chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq Al Allaf. Nonetheless, all sides indicated they would return to the table for more talks - possibly around

The talks resumed three weeks ago after a four-month break amid heightened hopes for progress, after Israel promised it would make concessions to the **Palestinians**

The United States also played a far more active role in this round ot talks than in any previous one since the Mideast talks were convened by the Bush administration in Oct. 1991. But both the Palestinians and Syrians indicated

they were dissatisfied with the U.Ś. roie, and Israel urged a more active U.S. presence in its talks with Syria.

"We will play our role but they must also play theirs," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher. "We can only go so far in this endeavour.

Israel's negotiator for talks with the Syrians, Itamar Rabinovich, said he too was leaving with mixed emotions. Although some

progress was made, he said the crux of the Israeli-Syrian dispute

remained unsolved. Syria wants Israel to commit to withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a peace agreement. Israel insists on first hearing what Syria means by full peace, before it will discuss what

it means by withdrawal. Israel appealed to the United States to help break the deadlock in its negotiations with Syria. The Syrians have been deman-

ding for some time that the United States, which has promised to play the role of "full partner" in the peace process, should intervene. But the Israelis resisted

However, Mr. Rabinovich, told a news conference on Thursday: "We feel comfortable with the role of the full partner and we would feel comfortable if the full partner enters the scene in order to try and move this negotiation forward.

Mr. Allaf of Syria told a news conference: "Israel has not answered that very important equation, full withdrawal for full peace. And I do not think there is any possibility to establish peace before an answer from the Israelis committing themselves to that equation."

Mr. Rabinovich said: "The Syrian attempt to break this logizm open by introducing the formula of full peace for full withdrawal doesn't quite do the trick because, frankly, full peace is no

(Continued on page 10)

Jordan reports no progress in talks Palestinians reject American proposal

TUNIS (Agencies) - Palestinian itially set for June 6, after the Leader Yasser Arafat will call for four-day feast of 'Eid Al Adha, an emergency meeting for the Palestine Central Council (PCC) ime +--soon to discuss the logjammed Middle East peace talks, Arafat

aides said Friday. The aides, requesting anonymity, said Mr. Arafat decided to call the 80-member assembly for a meeting after Arab and Israeli negotiators ended their ninth round of talks with no break-

through (see page 4).
The U.S.-sponsored talks went into recess in Washington on Thursday after the Palestinians rejected a compromise American document on a joint declaration of principles for a Palestinian seif-rule agreement.

In a statement Friday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) described the American proposals as a point-by-point copy of an Israeli plan offered and refused by the Palestinians

last week. The aides told the Associated Press that Mr. Arafat wants to consult with the Palestinian leaders on how to handle the slowmoving negotiations with Israel. They said Mr. Arafat was running out of patience for the lack

of progress in 19-month-old pro-The PCC coordinates between the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile, and the 18-member Executive

Committee of the PLO. The council meeting was inor feast of sacrifice, starting of

The U.S. proposal to bridge the gap between Israel and the Palestinians at the peace talks "represents the Israeli government view on all points," the PLO said in a memorandum addressed to the two sponsors of the peace conference, the United States and Russia, and carried by its WAFA news agency.

The Americans submitted their compromise proposal first to the Israelis and then to the Palestimians and billed it as a final attempt to bring the two sides

closer together.
The PLO said that the U.S. document "ignored the status of Jerusalem and the issue of the end of the (Israeli) occupation" and contradicted guarantees made by Russia and the United States at the start of the peace talks in 1991.

U.S. President George Bush said when the talks started that they would be based on the principle of exchanging land for

The PLO also asked the United States to hold immediate consultations with Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators in an effort to secure a "declaration of principle that could serve in the near future as the basis for an agreement.

(Continued on page 10)

Lebanon probes leak of alleged Israeli proposal

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon Middle East peace process, told opened an inquiry Friday into an embarrassing leak of an alleged Israeli peace proposal that has forced the closure of a Beirut

newspaper. An investigating judge questioned Faisal Salman, responsible editor fo the Leftist Al Safir, which Tuesday published what it said was a draft proposal for ending Israel's occupation of South Lebanon. It said the document was submitted to Lebanese negotiators at Middle East talks in Washington last week.

The Lebanese government described the newspaper's text as inaccurate and damaging to national security. A state pro-secutor ordered Al Safir closed for a week for Wednesday.

dan's political groups if and

when electoral reform is intro-

are targetted by the talk about

electoral changes," said in-fluential Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Sa'id." "But it is a

great misconception that we

would be the one to lose from

the change because other

groups benefitted from the cur-

rent election law just like we

did," he told the Jordan

The contention that the

Brotherhood's representation

in the Lower House of Parlia-

ment would be reduced if the

election law is changed is based

on the argument that, with its

unparalleled organisational

structure among the country's

political group, the movement

the distribution of seats to vot-

ing districts and voters' right to

have as many votes as the number of deputies in their

Advocates of this theory say

that the Brotherhood gained

from the high voter turn-out in

its constituencies and its sup-

was able to use to its advantage

"There is no doubt that we

duced.

Times.

precincts.

Israel and the United States, which is mediating in the delicate

Lebanon they objected to the principle of the text's publication. Al Safir appeared as Beirut Al

Mohsen Ibrahim, for a second day Friday. It was the third newspaper or television ordered to close since April 29. The suspensions caused a stir in

media and political circles, igniting fears of a possible clampdown on the press which enjoys more freedom in Lebanon than in most other Arab states.

Some government ministers voiced objection to the ban The press and journalists'

syndicates, at a rally in support of Al Safir Thursday, threatened to strike, saying the closure was illegal and should be reversed.

The leading Al Nahar daily called the dispute over the ban "the battle of liberties."

said publishing a confidential touched state security. Massa, a title whose rights are owned by communist leader non's credibility and the position and editor-in-chief, accurately of Lebanese negotiators. We might have to pay the price." Mr. Bouez said a similar investigation into the source of the

leak has begun at the Foreign Ministry. Justice Minister Bahij Tabara said the newspaper's closure was a line with Lebanese press laws. He said the state prosecutor has

standing instructions to apply the law "especially when there is an incursion on state security."
Mr. Tabara added: "The

(peace) negotiations file is a secret one. The pres law is clear ... when a secret document or letter is published then this publishing is liable" to prosecution.

Al Safir said the proposal was not a secret document and there Foreign Minister Faris Bouez was no evidence that printing it

and editor-in-chief, accused the

government drawing the press into battle with the judiciary. This is a political battle and they (government) will not succeed in drawing us to a battle with the judiciary which we consider a bastion of freedom and democra-

cy," Mr. Salman added. The government has suspended until May 20 the opposition daily Nida'a Al Watan and the television station International Communications Network indefinitely, for publishing and broadcasting material deemed damaging to reconciliation in Lebanon where 15 years of civil war ended inn-

Refugee talks seen advancing

OSLO (R) — Three days of international talks on the plight of millions of refugees in the Middle East ended on Thursday with rare progress which could give a boost to the struggling peace process, delegates said.
"The ball has started to roll," Norwegian Tom Vraalsen told

reporters. "We are now getting down to practical work." Delegates said both Israeli and Palestinian representatives were satisfied with the final statement which touched on sensitive issues and listed specific initiatives to improve the lives of refugees.

The meeting was of the refugee working group, one of five multilateral bodies set up to support the main Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington. The success we have achieved

in Oslo represents an important milestone in the efforts of the refugee working group," Cana-dian Marc Perron told reporters after the talks.

"Positive results in one working group is positive for the peace process," he added.

On Thursday delegates left the hall for behind-the-scenes meetings to try to settle differences over the wording of a final state-

Palestinians wanted the statement to mention their "right of return" as laid down in a U.N. resolution which Israel rejects. The final statement was a com-

promise. It said some delegates believed the working group should build upon "existing U.N. resolutions regarding Palestinian refugees," while others asserted it should avoid becoming a "political arena."

Palestinians also wanted a mission led by French diplomat Bernard Bajolet to continue to look into the reunification of divided families in the Middle East, and to be allowed to make specific recommendations.

A copy of the statement obtained by Reuters said: "The French mission will ex-

plore all aspects of family reunification and all the ideas put forward during the meeting...it will submit the results and prop-osals of its findings to the next meeting of the working group."

The group agreed on a mission to assess Palestinian priorities on refugee training, and agreed that a group of experts should be set up to meet on public health

"The refugee problem is the core of the Palestinian problem," Palestinian coordinator Abu Ala said, adding that there had been serious talks rather than dancing around issues.

S. Arabia cracks down on human rights group NICOSIA (AFP) - The Saudi The Committee for the De-

confrontation with an opposition that has stepped up calls for reform since the Gulf war.

Riyadh on Thursday barred two lawyers from practising and dismissed four university professors and a civil servant after the seven formed a group to fight 'oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia.

The group's Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights also sought to secure the release of what it said were political prisoners in Saudi Arabia and push for political change.

The creation of the group culminated two years of criticism of government policy by the opposition whose calls for reform in a country which has no written constitution have generally been ignored, political analysts in the region said.
The calls increased after the

Gulf war when a U.S.-led coalition of 30 countries mounted an offensive from Saudi Arabia that drove Iragi troops from Kuwait.

The king, who rules in accordance with Islamic law, has since pledged repeatedly to push ahead with reforms but warned they would not follow Western exam-In March 1992, the king

announcement he would appoint a 60-member consulta-tive council within six months, but a year later the only step taken was the appointment of the justice minister as head of the coun-

government's crackdown on hu-fence of Legitimate Rights. which man rights activists is the latest announced its formation on May 7, charged that repeated human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia demonstrated the need for a group like theirs.

The founding members of the committee are Muslim scholars known for their close links with Saudi religious figures, a status which is bound to exacerbate the concerns of the ruling family. Committee leader Abdullah Al

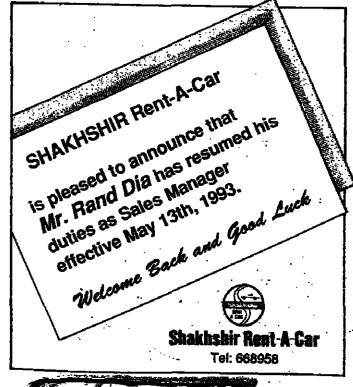
Masaari was a student of the current president of the powerful Assembly of Ulamas, Sandi Arabia's highest religious authority. The assembly condemned the group. It charged in a statement

that there was no justification for the existence in Saudi Arabia of the committee, arguing the country was already regulated by Sharia. Prince Salman Ben Abdul

Aziz, the governor of Riyadh and brother of King fahd, summoned the committee members a few days earlier to tell them of the royal family's anger and order them to dissolve their committee.

Two committee members. Abdullah Al Jebrin and Abdullah Al Masaari, were signatories to a critical political document addressed to King Fahd in July 1992 by 107 Saudi religious fi-

The document, entitled Al Islah (Advice), called on the au-thorities to free theological activity in Saudi Arabia, review laws to ensure they conform with Sharia, and abolish "torture and phone bugging."





The choices for electoral reform This is the second in a series of articles on the wide-ranging debate over electoral reform in Jordan. The first article appeared in the Jordan Times issue of May 13-14, 1993. porters' commitment to the By Ayman Al Safadi leadership's choice of candi-Jordan Times Staff Reporter dates and came out from the AMMAN - Even though it 1989 elections with a number feels targetted by the drive to of seats disproportionate to the change the current Election Law, the Muslim Brotherhood

percentage of the popular vote received. movement believes its losses They say that a change in the would be the least among Jor-

voting districts, therefore, would fragment the Brotherhood's power base and a oneman-one-vote formula would undermine the commitment of its supporters: they would have to make a choice and vote for one candidate. That, however, would hurt

others more than it would the

Brotherhood, according to Dr. Sa'id. "If the voting districts are redrawn, the Brotherhood is the most capable group of reorganising in accordance with the new division," he said pointing to famed organisa-

tional power of his movement. And if a one-man-one-vote system was introduced without altering the voting districts, the Brotherhood would not nominate lists of candidates as it did in the 1989 election, but have one candidate in each area within the voting district to ensure the best utilisation of the votes it has.

For instance, said Dr. Sa'id. Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad Al Koufahi won about 32,000 votes in the 1989 elections, far more than the number of votes he needed to become a deputy



Hammam Şa'id

for Irbid. In the event that a one-man-one-vote system was introduced, these votes would be divided among more Brotherhood candidates to ensure that no votes are wasted.

In that case, Dr. Sa'id believes, non-Brotherhood candidates will lose more because they would not get the extra votes that supporters of the movement have and could give to them on grounds other than their political affiliation.

An extra outcome of a decision to change the voting system without the approval of the Brotherhood would attach to the movement the image of martyrs which would definitely increase its popular support. according to many Jordanian politicians and analysts. With the perception that a

new election law would be

tailored to hurt the Brotherbood so widely spread, "people would have more sympathy for us," said Dr. Sa'id. "And if the Brotherhood is convinced that a new law is made with the purpose of hurting it, the movement would

consider boycotting the elec-

tions altogether."

Spokesman of the Brotherhood bloc at the House Ibrahim Khreisat said recently that the movement would not boycott the elections even if the law was changed by issuing another temporary law. "Mr. Khreisat, however, was speaking for the time being and no final decision has been taken," Dr. Sa'id contended.

"At this stage, we are planning to contest the elections," but if developments prompt a different decision the Brotherhood would take it, he said, pointing to the decision of the Egyptian Brotherhood not to enter parliament when it felt targetted by the regime.

Such a move, Dr. Sa'id believes, will put more pressure on the regime and create dissatisfaction among the people.

"Our presence in the Lower House reduces the pressure on government," said Dr. Sa'id, attempting to allay fears that the Brotherhood might dominate the House by saying movement has no intentions of attaining a majority in the House even if it could.

Dr. Sa'id said the Brotherhood wants other sectors of (Continued on page 19)

Mujahedeen of Iran claim escalated raids

NICOSIA (AP) — The main Iranian opposition group claimed Friday that it has escalated its armed operations against the Tehran regime and said 200 Revolutionary Guards have been killed or wounded in clashes this month.

The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said in a statement that seven of their activists were killed in the attacks launched May 2-13.

The Baghdad-based organisa-tion also claimed that in one operation eight oil pipelines around the big Abadan refinery. still under repair from damage inflicted in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, were blown up in a nighttime attack May 12.

There was no independent verification of the Mujahedeen's claims and no official comment from Tehran.

But Mujahedeen spokesman Shahin Gobadi told the Associated Press by telephone: "Our operations have been very much intensified inside Iran.

"Our blows against the regime are getting heavier and deadlier. This is a new phase of our campaign to topple the regime in Tehran," he said.

According to the Mujahedeen statement, telefaxed to the AP in Cyprus, the biggest clash was near the Meymen River northwest of the town of Dehloran, 40 kilometres from the Iraqi border

May 13. The Mujahedeen said scores of Revolutionary Guards were kil-led or wounded in a firefight that lasted several hours. Six Mujahedeen fighters were reported slain.

In two other reported clashes around Dehloran May 12, at least 90 Revolutionary Guards were killed or wounded in two other rebei attacks. No Mujahedeen casualties were listed.

Mr. Gobadi stressed that none of the operations were mounted from Mujahedeen bases inside traq, but were carried out by rebel units inside the Islamic re-

Still, the major clashes cited by the Mujahedeen took place in western Iran close to the frontier. Smaller operations were also

reported deep inside Iran in the central city of Isfahan, Shiraz in the south and northeast of Tehran near the Caspian Sea.

The Mujahedeen and their military arm, the National Li-beration Army (NLA) of Iran are not believed to have carried out any cross-border operations from Iraq since the end of the war with Iraq in August 1988.

Iraq has kept them on a tight leash since then, apparently to avoid antagonising Tehran, which stayed neutral in the 1991 Gulf

Although relations with Iran have been strained in recent months, Western officials say Iran is trading with Iraq in defiance of U.N. sanctions.
Iraq is unlikely to jeopardize

that vital trading link by allowing the Mujahedeen to launch attacks across the border.

Senior Mujahedeen officials said in March that the organisation planned to intensify its operations inside Iran to exploit growing discontent caused by severe economic problems and rifts

within the ruling hierarchy.

Mohammad Mohaddessin, a senior aide to Mujahedeen leader Massoud Rajavi, told the AP: "This regime will soon be going and the NLA's is in a position to deliver the fatal blow."

The Mujahedeen claimed last month that they carried out 11 operations inside Iran April 8-11, killing or wounding 150 Revolutionary Guards

They cited no losses in those operations, which were also concentrated primarily in western Iran in Ilam, Khermanshahan and Khuzestan provinces.

There was no independent confirmation of those reported raids



Ezer Weizman inspects army guard of honour as he officially takes office as president of Israel Thurs-

day (AFP photo) Weizman sworn in as president

TEL AVIV (R) - Ezer Weizman, a former combat pilot with a sharp tongue and a passion for peace with the Arabs, became Israel's seventh president Thurs-

day. Mr. Weizman, 68, was sworn into the five-year ceremonial job in Israel's parliament. His uncle Chaim Weizmann was the first president at Israel's founding in 1948.

In a speech after taking the oath of office Mr. Weizman, who helped forge the Jewish state's peace with Egypt in 1979, urged Israelis not to lose hope in their quest for peace with other Arabs.

Mr. Weizman could clash with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli leaders if he uses his position to promote such pet ideas as the return of the Golan Heights to Syria or talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said Israel must not be deterred by attacks on Jews or hardships in negotiating with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians in talks under way in

Mr. Weizman was elected in swearing-in party he would do his March by the 120-member parliament. He succeeds Chaim Heron government toes."

zog, president for a decade. The ceremony took place hours after the latest round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks ended without agreement on a hopedfor statement of principles for Palestinian self-rule.

"Let's not lose self-confidence," Mr. Weizman said. This process must be clung to. until we reach the long-awaited

"I hope that in our generation and perhaps during my term we'll see peace take on flesh and blood," he said.

For many Israelis Mr. Weizman personifies the image of the sassy Israeli native or "sabra" who is tough on the outside but soft on the inside.

He may be at pains to keep his mouth shut in a job that calls for hosting formal functions and representing Israel on state visits. A newspaper cartoon on Thursday depicted him with a padlock on He told reporters at a post-

best not to "heaven forbid, step

However, he added: "I don't think a president must intervene in matters only in the case of catastrophes, but he should coordinate, to understand, and to

He said he could "lend a hand" to Prime Minister Rabin, whom he has known since early army

days 45 years ago. In 1989 Mr. Weizman sparked a government crisis when as science minister in a left-right unity cabinet, he faced accusations of

illegal contacts with the PLO. He never denied the charges and the crisis ended with rightist Likud Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reducing Mr. Weizman's powers in cabinet.

Mr. Weizman was born in Tel Aviv in 1924 to Zionist aristocracy in what was then Palestine. under British rule. He flew for the British in

World War II and, as Israeli air force chief, built the Israeli air

Khartoum opposes peace talks summit

CAIRO (AFP) - Sudan has turned down a Nigerian proposal for a four-country summit to relaunch stalled peace talks with southern rebels, the Egyptian paper Al Hayat reported here Friday as the talks were again

It said Nigeria's onetime In-terior Minister Tunji Olagunju, chairman of the peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja, had in the past two days visited Sudan, Kenya and Uganda with the sug-gestion that they set up a summit with Nigeria.

According to diplomatic sources quorted by the paper, the military junta in Khartoum would have been required to make concessions on security matters and the issue of enforcing Islamic law. Unidentified Western parties were behind the idea of the sum-

mit, Al Hayat said. The Sudanese government turned down the proposal on the grounds that it exceeded the terms of reference of the current negotiations and was intended to put pressure on the government, the paper said.

Government spokesman Ali Ali Haj complained that an attempt to settle the problem of the civil war outside the framework of direct talks was an infringement of Sudanese sovereignty and thus to be rejected, Al Hayat reported.

In Abuja, where the parley has been bogged down since April 26. both sides warned Friday that a negative reaction to Nigeria's latest mediation bid could scupper the talks for the time being, a delegate with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said Mr. Olagunju's report on his mission would be decisive for what happened next.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pro-Israeli militiamen killed in Lebanon

MARIAYOUN (AFP) - Guerrillus killed a member of famela proxy Lebanese militia in fighting early Friday inside itrasf; self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said. South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen were on routine patrol in the Qantara region of the central sector of the zone when they intercepted an anti-Israeli commando. A SLA militiamen was killed in the 30-minute fighting, the source said. On Thorsday, afternoon assailants fired anti-tank rockets against SLA positions, including Qantara, Lebanon police reported. The Faithful Resignation of the control ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist ance, a group close to the Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalist and Iranian-backed Muslim f responsion movement, claimed responsionly to the distance statement in Beirut said a remote-control bomb explicated at the passage of a joint Israeli-SLA patrol "killing and wounding several people in the ranks of the enemy."

Greece hopes Russia will reconsider veto

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis Thursday urged Russia to reconsider its veto of reforming the financing of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cyprus. Russia, in financial trouble and reluctant to take on new burdens, stumed the Security Council Tuesday by vetoing a British resolution to share the costs of the 1,500-strong U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) among all U.N. members instead of relying of voluntary donations. "I want to hope that Russia will reconsider as veto and that the marginary force will remain in Chapter " her veto and that the peacekeeping force will remain in Cyprus," Mr. Mitsotakis told reporters after talks with Cypriot President Glascos Clerides in Athens. "It is not possible to talk about stationing tens of thousands of U.N. troops in other parts of the world and not be able to maintain a small force in Cyprus," he added. UNFICYP, which patrols a 180-kilometres buffer zone dividing Cyprus, is the only U.N. peacekeeping force to rely on voluntary demations. It has been stationed on the island since 1964 between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Contributing countries are disenchanted with the financial burden and lack of progress in negotiations to reunite the island. Mr. Clerides has told the United Nations that he would ask Greece to send troops to Cyprus if;a withdrawal or reduction in UNFICYP endangered its security.

Austrian chancellor to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (R) -- Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky will make a four-day visit to Israel from June 8, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office said Friday. "This will be the first official visit by an Austrian chancellor to Israel," it said in a statement. Israel-Austrian relations deteriorated during Kurt Waldheim's six years as Austrian president, which ended in 1992. Dr. Waldheim, a former U.N. secretary-general, denied accusations that during have service in Adolf Hitler's army in World War II he knew of people being deported to death camps. Relations improved after Mr. Vranitzky, in a formal declaration in 1991, said Austrians, incorporated into the Nazi Third Reich in 1938, had been not only victims of Nazism but also its servants. During the visit Hebrew University will grant Mr. Vranitzky an honorary doctorate of philosophy, citing his declaration and his key role in the fight against fascism and anti-Semitism.

iran, Afghanistan to help refugee return

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, Afghanistan and the U.N. High Commussioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have agreed to help 700,000 refugees who fled to Iran during the Afghan civil war return home by the end of the year. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said delegations from the two countries met a UNHCR team in Tehran Thursday and agreed to set up bases in Afghanistan to help ease the return. IRNA quoted the leader of the Iranian delegation Ahmad Husseini as saying 518,000 of an estimated three million Afghans who fled to Iran had already headed home voluntarily. He said the UNHCR had given material aid to 55,000 of them. In February the governor of Iran's Khorasan province ordered police to round up and deport 300,000 unregistered Afghan refugees from the province, which borders Afghanistan. IRNA also quoted a UNHCR official as saying only \$116 million had been allocated to the repatriation of Afghan refugees, which hhe described as "insufficient." He said the UNHCR gave 25- and a 50-kilo bags of wheat to each refugee who returned home, to support them for

Israeli admits heroin charge in New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AFP) — An Israeli admitted Friday to importing heroin valued at around 80,000 New Zealand dollars (\$43,600) when he appeared in the district court here. Police Sergeant Pat Creasey told the court the heroin, which weighed some nine grammes (one third of an ounce), was internally secreted in four rubber bags. Avraham Alkarif, aged 27, unemployed, was convicted and committed in custody to the high court for sentence on June 1. Sgt. Creasey said Mr. Alkarif was searched by customs at Christchurch on his return from four days in Thailand and two in Singapore. He denied any involvement with drugs, refused a medical examination, and refused to eat or drink. The defendant later agreed to a medical scan and four objects showed up in his lower rectum. Eventually these were recovered and found to contain 40 per cent pure heroin.

Peres to visit India, China

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres leaves Sunday on a visit to India and China, both of which established diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in January 1992. It will be the first official visit by an Israeli foreign minister to India. Mr. Peres' predecessor, David Levy, was in Peking 16 months ago to sign the protocol establishing diplomatic ties between the two sides. India, a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement and a strong supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had withheld recognition of Israel since its founding in 1948, insisting that Israel resolve its conflict with the Arabs. India agreed to diplomatic relations to join in multilateral talks tied to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process. In a news conference earlier this week, Mr. Peres said he hoped his visit to new Delhi would mark "a new chapter in relations between India and Israel." He said he expected to sign several cooperation agreements on culture and tourism and would offer Israel's help in agricultural projects. "Here, no matter that India is so large and great and Israel is so small, we can cooperate to a very great extent," he said.

U.N. guards leave Iraq amid security fears

SULAYMANIYAH (AFP) — The United Nations has started withdrawing U.N. guards from northern Iraq amid a security breakdown in Kurdistan, where four aid workers have been killed since January.

The United Nations said Thursday the withdrawal of the 236 guards was to begin on Friday and continue until mid-June because it had not received funds to

finance the operation. The first batch of 50 guards were repatriated Thursday and Friday, according to a U.N. source in Baghdad.

Besides the killing of two

Kurds, a Belgian and an Australian, a hospital in Kurdistan was bombed and explosives have been placed on vehicles transporting aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq since January, aid workers said.

The four dead worked for nongovernmental aid agencies, which have been operating in Iraqi Kur-

The breakdown in security led to the departure at the end of April of the Medecins Sans Frontieres, a French group, while another non-governmental agency, Equilibre, pulled out its

The U.N. guards, who were dispatched to northern Iraq following the end of the Gulf war, were often criticised by aid workers and some Kurds for being

But for the beleaguered Kurdish population, which elected a ment" last year in defiance of Baghdad, they represented a symbol of international guaran-

> "The U.N. guards spend more time protecting themselves than protecting the others," charged a German aid worker who declined

"But their departure would be a blow for the Kurdish people who still rely a lot on humanitarian aid," he added.

Added Fabienne Buly, of France-Liberte: "The situation has deteriorated lately. We must be extra careful."

"When the Kurds give me sensitive information about security, I refer it to the nongovernmental agencies by walkietalkie rather than inform the guards first," she said in Sulaymaniyah, home to 600,000 inhabitants.

nationals from the region tempor-

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) - An Afghan guerrilla commander has released three European diplomats he had kidnapped at gunpoint last month, Pakistan and British officials said.

Jack Dodds of Britain, Stefan Elhert of Germany and Gert Piening of the Netherlands were freed unconditionally and handed over to officials in Pakistan, British diplomats said. They have been walked across

the border," one said. Guerrilla commander Ghulam Nabi Noorzai released them into the custody of Afghan elders in the border town of Spinboldak, Irfan Elahi, assistant commissioner of Pakistan's Chaman border district, told Reuters.

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The Afghan officials accompanied them to the border where they were handed over to Pakistani officials. "Noorzai released them today

unconditionally," Mr. Elahi said

"We're delighted," British High Commissioner Sir Nicholas

by telephone from Chaman.

PROGRAMME TWO

Barrington said in Islamabad. "It's been a long process and we're grateful for the efforts of the Pakistani officials and our friends in Afghanistan. Mr. Noorzai abducted the di-

plomats and a Pakistani companion on April 23 after they drove into Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar. They were released after in-

tense negotiations and almost daily visits to the kidnappers by an Afghan council of elders, offi-British, German and Dutch en-

voys met Pakistani officials on Thursday in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, to discuss the fate of the three men, all anti-narcotics officials. Pakistani and Afghan officials

said the diplomats entered Afghanistan illegally, slipping over the border using a smug-glers' crossing after Pakistani border officials turned them back because they had no Afghan Afghan officials said initially

Afghan kidnappers free three European diplomats the diplomats were arrested for

> valid papers. The three officers had been on a duty tour to Baluchistan. Mr. Noorzai, a member of the Hardline Hezb-e-Islami party of Afghan Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, demanded the release of two of his men

entering Afghanistan without

arrested in Pakistan on charges of gun-running in return for the diplomats. · Pakistani officials refused the

The three kidnapped diplomats had been suffering stomach problems, according to a relative of their Pakistani companion who tried to visit them this week. Haji Musa Hazara said he was

denied permission to meet the men but was told by visitors that all three were unshaven and their clothing was dirty. Pakistani officials said they had sent food, fruit and mineral water

across the border regularly for the diplomats. The diplomats smuggled out two letters complaining about their poor conditions and saying Pakistani officials involved in the negotiations to free them were

holding up their release. Islamabad denied the accusa tion and said the diplomats had travelled into Afghanistan in spite of advice from Pakistani

Kidnapping is common on Pakistan's border with Afghanis-

Several Chinese workers at a copper mine in southern Baluchistan were kidnapped by Afghan guerrillas and taken over the border last year. They were released several days later and Pakistani officials said no ransom

Pakistani officials said Mr. Dodds, a second secretary at the deputy high commission in Karachi, had told local authorities about his visit to Quetta.

The group arrived with two armed guards provided by the government of the southern province of Sind, of which Karachi is

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Islamic Jihad condemns verdict against U.S. embassy bombers

BEIRUT (AP) - Islamic Jihad, the spearhead of anti-Western extremism during Lebanon's civil war, has denounced a military court raling that denied amnesty for suspects in the 1983 U.S.

embassy bombing, newspapers said Friday....
A purported Islamic lihad statement, published by the Lebanese dailies Al Nahar and Al Hayat, said: "The heroic operation, whose perpetrators some collaborators are trying to convict, was aimed at hitting the ill-omened nest that masterminded the Zionist invasion

of Lebanon" in 1982. The identical statements were left in the mailboxes of the two newspapers. But there was no way to prove their authenticity. The military court of appeal Tuesday reversed an earlier ruling by a lower military tribunal that the suicide bombing of the embassy was a political crime, whose perpetrators were covered by

a post-civil war general amnesty.

The denunciation published Friday described the ruling by the country's highest martial judicial authority as "submission by

Lebanese authorities to the collaborators. It urged the government to "respect the will of your people.... and value its sacrifices."

However, the statement did not contain any threats against the West which had characterised Islamic Jihad's communiques in the 1980s, when the group led bombing and kidnapping campaigns

against Western targets and nationals. Islamic Jihad is an underground group which claimed responsi-bility for the April 18, 1983, suicide bombing of the U.S. embassy. In addition to the driver of the explosives-laden truck, 62 perished in the bombing.

Six men, including five Lebanese and an Egyptian, have been charged in absentia with acquiring the truck, rigging it with explosives and setting it off at the seven-storey seaside embassy compound. The attack ushered in an era of extremist during which 241 American servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed in

twin suicide bombing Oct. 23, 1983. In the next four years, Islamic Jihad and other groups kidnapped 92 Westerners in Lebanon, many of them Americans. The last American hostage, former Associated Press Middle East correspondent Terry Anderson, was freed in December 1991.

The Lebanese government issued a general amnesty in August 1991 for all political crimes committed during the 1975-1990 civil

Last month, a Beirut military court said the pardon covers the embassy's suspected bombers. That aroused fears that kidnappers, bombrs and hijackers would

evade prosecution — a precedent that would complicate the government's campaign to shed off the country's extremist image.

The masterminds of most crimes remain at large and many of them commute between east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and Iran. This week's ruling by the military court of appeals was expected to avoid a new confrontation with the United States.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tcl: 773111-19

Soccer Match

[9:15	Fenetre sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Super Blooners
2//:00	Local Programme
30	Music
/24:00	News in English
22:29	Super Bloopers Local Programme Music News in English Feature Film: "Dead on the Money"
	PRAYER TIMES
04-05	C-:-

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfleb, Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annuaciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassanta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

glican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. nian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephrakm Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church T Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel:

WEATHER

Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Salats Tcl. 823824, 654932

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

will continue to affect the Kingdom Sammtay, Therefore, it will be relative ly hot, dusty and partly cloudy, with scattered showers expected in various parts of Jordan. Winds will be westerly Agaba, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be southerly fresh and seas

Min./Max. temp. 16 / 20 22 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 32, Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 16 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE**

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: mad Al Sawwa Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115 751144 Dr. Yousef Nusci 661912 reroows poarmacy Al Asema pharmacy 637053 623672 636730 acoub o 644945

Dr. Ahmed Oagu Zu'bi

Dr. Yahya Al Tarifi **EMERGENCIES**

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police
Public Security Department
Herel Complainer
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Monanakiy
Complaints787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 636381 Oucen Alia Intl. Airport..... 06-53200

HOSPITALS American: Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amr. ... 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amr. ... 64241/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malbar J. American Science 642362 Malhas, J. Amman
Palestine, Shmeisani
Shmeisani Hospital
University Hospital
Al-Muasher Hospital 664171/4 .. 669131 .. 845845 667227/5 Al-Ahli Ahdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen . Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26

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Zarga National Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital Al Hikma Modern Hospital IRBID: Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. APPIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Wild manners Coins Adults	7
10:30 Karachi, Dubai	<u>yu</u>
il:00 Colombo	ξ×.
11-32 COROGIDO	(RJ
11:35 Being	(RJ
17:45 Cairo	(RJ
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12:50	Geneva, Madrid (F	ŭ

Bahrain, Doha

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

MARKET PRICES

Sansa (IY)
Dubai (EM)

680 / 680

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince gives blood to help campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Underlining the importance of the current two-week blood drive and public awareness campaign, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and several members of the Royal family Thursday donated blood at the Blood Bank and urged Jordanians to follow suit. According to Blood Bank Director General Janet Merza, the campaign which started on May 8 will continue through May 23. Dr. Merza said the campaign was also aimed at removing misconceptions about blood donation and its effects on humans.

Remote-sensing conference begins Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the second pan-Arab conference on establishing an Arab association for remote-sensing and geographical data systems will be held here on May 17. Participants in this three-day meeting will discuss several working papers on the importance of establishing a pan-Arab association for geographical data, applications of remote-sensing and case studies on such applications, marketing of geographical information in the Arab countries and the use of remote-sensing technology in defining and management of natural resources. Taking part in the conference will be representatives of ten Arab countries. The conference is organised by the Royal Jordanian Geographic

Communications disorders meeting ends

AMMAN (Petra) - The Second International Symposium for Communications Disorders concluded its three-day meetings Thursday at the University of Jordan. Participants in the symposium, organised by the University's Centre for Phonetics Research, called for conducting extensive research on speech and language disorders and learning difficulties, especially dyslexia, according to centre Director Yousef Al Hallees. Dr. Hallees said the conferees discussed several working papers dealing with the most recent methods of diagnosing speech and language problems as well as hearing and reading difficulties. A total of 30 specialists and experts from Jordan, Arab and European countries and the U.S. participated in the symposium.

Educational reform meeting starts Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day regional symposium on educational renovation will be held here on May 17, according to Director General of the Department of Planning, Educational Development and Research Mohammad Ayasrah. Dr. Ayasrah said the symposium will review achievements of the educational renovation programme, launched by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional unit for coordinating the educational renovation programme for development in the Arab World. Participants will discuss basic education, development of special education, school dropouts, literacy and promoting girls' education. Taking part in the symposium will be representatives of Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Bahrain, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, in addition to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO).

Community colleges seminar begins at Al Quds

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on community colleges in Jordan will be held Sunday at Al Glids College in Amman. The seminar, which will be opened by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, and in which a large number of educationalists will participate, will discuss issues related to community colleges and university education, the influence of foreign labour on job opportunities, training opportunities for community college graduates and other issues.

Environment officials head for U.N. Nairobi meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razak Tubeishat Friday announced that Jordan will take part in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 17th board meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Tubeishat, head of the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, will leave today accompanied by Environment Department Director Saleh Al Sh'are and other senior ministry officials. The 10-day session will focus on ways of dealing with pollution, desertification, poverty, human settlement, protection of the soil and forests and protection of the marine environment, said Dr. Tubeishat.

Iraq, Jordan land transport panel to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Committee will open its meetings in Amman today. The Jordanian side to the meetings will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, and the Iraqi side will be headed by the Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Sattar Al Ma'ini who arrived in Amman Thursday. The assembly will discuss in its two-day meetings the company's workplans and financial situation. The company is considered the largest Arab land transport company.

Transport mechanics chief heads for Algiers seminar

AMMAN (Petra) - President of the General Union of Workers in Land Transport and Mechanics Ibrahim Al Ajarmen, who is also assistant secretary of the Arab Land Transport Workers Federation, Sunday leaves Amman for Algiers to participate in a seminar on "Negotiations and Group Contracts" which will open May 18. Mr. Ajarmeh said the week-long seminar will discuss issues pertaining to group contracts and negotiations between parties to the production process, the situation of the labour movement in the Arab World, means of developing it and ways to enhance ties between Arab labour unions. While in Algiers, he said, he will meet with his Algerian counterpart to discuss scopes of cooperation between the Jordanian and Algerian unions of land transport workers and mechanics. Later in the month, Mr. Ajarmeh will visit Tunisia and Morocco for the same purpose.



launched by the Jordan National Blood Bank



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and visitors of the Noel Foundation admire hand-

QAF pilot dairy project benefits Ma'in community

generating income for their families and helping to increase the national food production at who is a member of the Noel the same time.

project for food and dairy processing, initiated by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund

After receiving initial training, the women are now employed in producing cheese, butter, ghee and dried yoghurt using simple techniques and tools that are affordable and do not require complicated technology.

The project is also serving other families by giving them a dependable local market for their milk. These families previously had to sell their milk to Madaba, which often involved delays that

spoiled the milk. After the success of the pilot in Ma'in, the project is now being implemented and extended to ten other villages in Mafraq governorate. All the projects are sponsored by the Noel Foundation, an international development organisation, and the United Nations

Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The project aims to create new job opportunities, increase food

group of poor rural women are committees and the role of discovering their potentials, women in rural communities. Following an invitation by Her

Royal Highness Princess Basma, ""Foundation international advis-This group is part of a pilot ory board, the president and members of the foundation were in Jordan last week to visit the Ma'in and other projects the OAF is implementing in rural areas to improve the situation of poor women, using local resources and skills.

> The mission of the Noel Foundation is similar to that of the Queen Alia Fund in that it seeks to encourage and support women in their efforts to create a better existence for themselves, their families, their communities, and their world.

The delegation visited OAF projects and social community development centers in Madaba, Ma'in, Mleih, Taibeh, Agaba and

"We were all surprised and touched by the quality and impact of the Queen Alia Fund projects in rural regions in Jordan," said Mrs. Noel Irwin Hentschel, president and founder of the Noel

Foundation. The visiting delegation, includ-

AMMAN (J.T.) - In Ma'in, a supply and strengthen women's ing business and economic leaders, as well as diplomats and officials from various countries, discussed continued cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund for future projects that serve the aim of both organisations to help people build their future.

The guests were introduced to the various projects the QAF has implemented in the last fifteen sections of the Jordanian society.

In particular, they were interested in the projects that generate income for rural women, such as rug-weaving, dairy and food production and During their visit, they met

with local community leaders, members of women's committees (initiated by QAF), and local families that have benefited from QAF projects and its social community development centres. The delegation expressed de-

light at the warm welcome it received in Jordan and by the friendliness and sincerity of the Jordanian people.

"I will always remember this day as the day I fell in love with the Jordanian children," said Arthur Mahon, a member of the

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hluch and Margaret M. Hluch at the American Centre. ★ Exhibition of paintings by Suha Katihah Noursi at the Spanish Cultural.

- Art exhibition of works by artists from Jordan, Iraq and Morocco at Alia Art Gallery. * Children's illustration exhibition by Lamia
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by students from Nazareth College at the French Cultural Centre.

Abdul Sahib at the British Council.

EUROPEAN FILM WEEK

Italian film entitled "Il Giardino dei Cilegi"

(The Cherry Orchard) at 5 p.m. and the British film entitled "Truly, Madly, Deeply" at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Interview believed to be reason for giving information to the media superior. But iournalists and By Sansan Ghosheb Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — The new Press and terminating parliament employee

Publications Law, that will go into effect on May 17, urges that government institutions and officials facilitate the work of journalists in "seeking the truth." But despite some heavy criticism tevelled at the new legislation, it can only be an improvement on the current law, which, in its dying days seems to have been used to punish a government employee who spoke to the press in order to improve the status of

his institution. The director of parliament's Research and Study Centre (RSC), Mustafa Al Odwan, lost his post last week, after an interview he gave appeared in the Jordan Times, leading to the inevitable conclusion that the article was the reason behind the decision to end his services for

the centre. Parliamentary sources said the Jordan Times article did not please the general secretariat of the parliament and "influenced" "bothered" them and "hastened its decision to terminate Dr. the issue."

Odwan's job with the parliament. Dr. Odwan refrained from comment saying he did not want to see more complications to the

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmed Al Lawzi, who is the ultimate authority on employment and administrative matters in parliament, denied the accusations, explaining that what happened was "a routine procedure" and it came upon the request of Dr. Odwan, who had asked to be transferred back to the Ministry of Higher Education from where he had

been seconded. Secretary General of the Parliament Saleh Al Zoubi said the decision to end the secondment of Dr. Odwan was discussed "two months ago," but the article Dr. Odwan received the letter

informing him of the termination of his secondment, indicating May 15th, the day his second-ment originally expires, as the last day for him at the centre, without giving a reason for his termination. The letter, however, was dated April 29th the same day the article concerning the centre "U.S. researcher points out parliament need for staff, facilities," appeared in this news-

In the interview with the Jordan Times Dr. Odwan said the RSC was understaffed and poorly equipped to carry out its func-

The Jordan Times also learned that the general secretariat of the parliament asked one of its em-

late the article in question to Arabic, which further increased the suspicions of other employees interviewed, who were concerned about "losing their jobs" if their names appeared in the paper, but were willing to help in any possi-ble way so that this incident does not get swept under the carpet.

ployees, on April 29th, to trans-

Replacing Dr. Odwan as the director of the RSC is the current assistant secretary general Hussein Abu Rabi, who is also seconded from another govern-ment department to parliament.

According to one parliament employee, Mr. Abu Rabi's secondment had expired "two or three years ago, but they kept renewing it, something not done for Dr. Odwan."

The Civil Service Law forbids any government employee from

observers were quick to criticise

Salameh Ne'matt, a Jordanian journalist, said "it is very sad to see that freedom of expression, which is a pre-condition for reform, is being undermined in such a manner. How can we have reform if official attitudes do not allow for diagnosing and discussing problems that need to be tackled in order for us to develop better functioning institutions?" "Parliament, of all state institu-

tions, should be the most tolerant of the freedom of speech," a Jordanian columnist said.

"To punish an employee for saying what is on his mind, and for urging positive change in his institution, is unwarranted at best. In this new age of democracy, parliament should be at the forefront of those government institutions which have to democratise their structure and instill in their staff the spirit of openness, not rigidity and fear."

Amman-Tehran flights may resume in summer '94

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Direct flights between Amman and Tehran, Iran, are tentatively expected to be resumed in the summer of next year depending on the outcome of planned discussions on the technical and commercial aspects of the operation, officials said Friday.

Senior Civil Aviation Authority officials from Jordan and Iran have agreed in principle to amend a 1977 air transport accord, clearing the way for the resumption of direct flights.

The agreement in principle, came during meetings held with a visiting Iranian delegation and the Kingdom's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Minutes of the meetings were signed Thursday by the head of the visiting delegation, Deputy Minister of Transport Mohmmad Narajyan, who is also chief of Iran's Civil Aviation Authority, and Jordan's CAA Director-General Ahmad Juwei-

The commercial and technical aspects of the operation are expected to be finalised during dis-cussions later this year," Mr.

Juweiber told the Jordan Times. Air and RJ, the source said Last week's meetings in Amman followed the visit to Tehran of a Jordanian delegation including CAA and Royal Jordanian (RJ) representatives who initiated discussions on air links.

At present air travellers between Amman and Tehran have to go through Damascus or any of the Gulf airports.

Sources at Royal Jordanian. the national carrier, noted that the agreement in principle, offered equal opportunities for both RJ and Iran Air, the Islamic Republic's airline, but that although RJ was hoping to resume its Tehran flights in the summer of 1994, it was doubtful that Iran Air would launch Amman flights immediately.
"Iran Air is short of capacity,

although its option to fly to Amman remains open," noted an RJ source. "It may not start flights to Amman simultaneously with R.I."

Matters related to landing charges, handling arrangement on the ground and similar issues are expected to be on the table in Amman in September or Octo-

RI suspended its flights to Tehran shortly : afore Jordan and Iran broke diplomatic relations in 1981 as a result of conflicting

positions in the Iran-Iraq war. Ties were restored in 1990, and since then, exports to both sides have improved considerably.

According to the RJ source. "prospects are good for Amman-Tehran-Amman flights in view of the picking up trade, as well as the existence of Islamic holy places in Jordan, such as the tombs of the Companions of the Prophet Mohammad."

Furthermore, the source noted, "there is a steady flow of Iranian exports to Jordan and an air link would come in handy for the exporters from Iran."

Amman could also sene as a major transis point between Tehran and the U.S., as well as several European countries Iran Air does not fly to the U.S. and its European operations are limited when compared with Royal Jordanian.

At preser' U.S.-bound passengers originating in Tehran mostly transit through the Gulf

Unlicensed firearms to be handed over to authorities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Interior has announced that centres and police stations assigned to collecting firearms from the public will start receiving un-

licensed weapons.
Interior Minister Jawdat Sboul said Thursday that he was acting upon government instructions following the approval of the measure by the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

The government last December announced that by the end of January firearms should be collected and handed over at designated government centres, but later deferred the enforcement of

the order, pending Parliament People's Army centre. approval which came on March

approved a recommendation by the House Administrative Committee that the government had legal grounds for issuing regulations on the possession of arms in Jordan. The new regulations allow people to keep pistols and hunting rifles, but not automatic

weapons. Under the regulations:

- The government will license only revolvers, pistols and hunt-ing rifles and people possessing these types of firearms should license them.

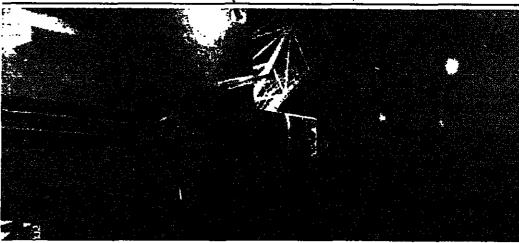
- All other firearms are banned. Those who possess them should hand them over to the police or a

- All collected firearms will be kept safe in army depots and will The majority of deputies be used in times of need by the

concerned authorities. According to the minister's statement, members of the public handing over licensed firearms will receive appropriate compensation in accordance with regulations which will be issued in due time.

When it first announced the measure in December, the government said that the collection of unlicensed arms was aimed at enabling the process of democracy to continue unhindered and to ensure that nothing mars security in the country.

The ban was also aimed at putting an end to festive firings.



A 41 cubic yard electric walking dragtine at El Hassa mine strips the overburden with a capacity of 25,0003 per day (File photo)

Jordan, India to examine phosphate, potash industries

(JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC) are organising a five-day seminar in Amman on the fertiliser industry next month. JPMC Director General Thabet Taher announced Friday that a joint committee from both

companies is sponsoring the meeting in which experts from India and Jordan will review mutual experiments and exper-

A total of 17 working papers will be examined by the participants and industry experts, Mr. Taher said in a statement to the

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company He said India was chosen He said India was chosen because it is the main importer of Jordanian phosphate and is undertaking joint ventures with Jordan to produce phosphate-based fertilisers.

The delegates to the June 13-17 meeting will also include university professors, representatives of various concerned ministries and other institutions and company engineers.

During the seminar, the participants will visit the sites of the two companies and the fertiliser complex in Aqaba, said Mr. Tah-

project at the phosphate site of Shideigh in southern Jordan. which is expected to have a total annual production capacity of 220,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid, employing 700,000 tonnes of raw phosphate, according to

He said the production of the plant was expected to start by the end of 1995. Similar seminars organised

jointly by India and Jordan were held earlier in Amman and New Delhi, noted Mr. Taher.

JORDAN EXPRESS

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 661242 ,

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Twisting aims may help

THE FAILURE of Washington to sway its European partners to its view on the Bosnian conflict raises doubts about both the status of the U.S. as the only remaining superpower and the clout of the new American president in the international arena.

Since he assumed power in January, President Bill Clinton has been orchestrating continuous promises and pledges to the effect that his administration would no longer stomach the Serbian aggression and atrocities. Clinton's stance on the Bosnian tragedy pre-dated his election in November when he campaigned rather emotionally and forcefully in favour of stopping the Serbian crimes against humanity in rump Yugoslavia. Ever since, he has been making one statement after the other that the time had arrived for a meaningful action in defence of the Muslims of Bosnia. By not acting on that repeated threat, however, the U.S. president risks appearing weak on a clear matter that shocked the conscience of his people as well as that of humanity.

This apparent weakness comes on the heels of Clinton's failure thus far to win the support of the U.S. Congress on key elements of his economic package. The White House cannot afford to look so lame so early in the life of the new administration. If the president is truly agonising over the fate of the Muslims in Bosnia, he has plenty of opportunities to correct the situation and in the process salvage his reputation as a world leader capable of acting effectively and forcefully to end bloody conflicts.

If the U.N. Security Council is incapable of acting on the Bosnian scene because of Moscow's clear biased position in support of the Serbs, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) or the Non-Aligned Movement can refer the entire file on Bosnia to the General Assembly. The assembly can be convened for an emergency session and under the famous "uniting for peace" resolution of 1950, the members of the United Nations can authorise military action against the rebellious Serbs even if the Security Council continues to be paralysed by the attitudes of Moscow and Paris. The 1950 resolution was improvised by Washington to permit large-scale military operations against North Korea and its allies in the wake of the Soviet veto in the Security Council in the same year.

In fact, the U.S. does not even need a decision by the General Assembly to act and make good on its pledges to do something about the Serbian atrocities and acts of genocide since the already adopted Security Council resolutions on Yugoslavia are broad enough to allow for even unilateral military actions. President Clinton has to show strength and determination and twist a few arms if necessary to prove his sincerity and resolve. By so doing, he will not only restore popularity and credibility for himself. He will also regain for his nation the prestige that it has clearly lost when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher came back empty-handed last week after failing to rally the support of the U.S.' closest allies.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DISAPPOINTMENT AND frustration is the general feeling prevailing in the Arab World following the total collapse of the peace talks in Washington, said Al Dustour daily. Nine sessions of Arab-Israeli talks have been wasted over more than a year of diplomacy and empty promises from the U.S. administrations, the paper said. It was another opportunity wasted and another chance for establishing peace missed because the Israelis continue to hold on to their intransigent position while the Americans continue to back away from their pledges and promises to help the two sides attain peace, the paper continued. Since the outset of the ninth session it was clear that Israel was not willing to offer any concession or reach a compromise on any of the topics, and it was clear from the beginning that the Clinton administration was not willing to commit itself to a meaningful action to force the Israelis to respect the international legitimacy, the paper added. The past three weeks, the U.S. administration played the role of bystander passively watching the Arabs and the Israelis meet and refraining from taking any step towards bringing the views of the two sides closer, it pointed out. The ninth session was in fact a testing ground for the American administration which had claimed it would play the role of full partner to help reach a settlement, the paper said. With the loss of this last chance, it said, Washington has lost its credibility, and it is reasonable to believe that the position of those who had orginally opposed the negotiations in the first place is strengthened as they indeed proved

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily attributed the current border dispute between Cairo and Khartoum to differences in general policies following Cairo's accusing Khartoum of encouraging terrorism actions in Egypt and playing to the tunes of Tehran. Tareq Masarweh implied in his column that Egypt was acting upon directives from Washington which has repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the Sudanese government's policies and which, said the writer, had been fomenting the north-south strife in Sudan by fuelling the rebellion in the south, arming the separatist groups and sabotaging the north-south peace talks. It is to be recalled that the Western nations, which had colonised the Arab World among other parts of the world had worked out maps for the Arabs. These artificially created border's could, at any minute, be exploited and transformed into trouble spots, the writer pointed out. It was the English who had sown the seeds for near the dispute and it is the Americans who are now trying to stir trouble between the two Arab neighbours, he charged.

The deraise of communism places new burdens on the U.S.

BOSTON - It wasn't the spies who won the cold war. I do not believe that in the end spies mattered very much.

Their capsuled isolation and their remote theorising actually prevented them from seeing, as late as 1987 or 1988, what anybody in the street could have told them: "It's over. We've won, The Iron Curtain is crashing down! The monolith we fought is a bag of bones! Come out of your trenches and smile!"

Even the victory, for them, was a cunning Bolshevik trick. And, anyway, what had they got to smile about? It was a victory achieved by openness, not secre-cy. By frankness, not intrigue. The Soviet empire did not fall apart because spooks had bugged the men's room in the Kremlin or put broken glass in Mrs. Brezhnev's bath but because running a huge, closed, repressive society in the 1980s had become - economically, socially, militarily and technologically impossible.

And the joke is that if the outcome of the cold war had been left to the spies, then on all the evidence so far our spies would have come a poor second. And

thank God for it. The strength of a true democracy is that it cannot command the fear, the discipline, the absolutism or the secret prisons that are the prerequisite of a police state. The strength of America is in her frankness, her mobility of mind, her willingness to declare herself, take risks and change. Not in her secrecy.

And today, Americans and

Russians are working, if not hand in hand, at least side by side to dismantle the arsenals for which they stretched their economies to breaking point.

The impossible happened immediately. The difficult, it seems, is going to take a great deal

The difficult is realising that we are shorn of all our old excuses for not addressing the real problems of the earth, that we can no longer put our humanity on hold in order to defend humanity.

The difficult is finding a better name for the compassionate aspects of communism: because we need them as much today as we ever did. They just got into the wrong hands,

For the uninstructed public, the spies popped up like gray ghosts scurrying across the world stage: the Rosenbergs, Alger Hiss (maybe), Abel, Fuchs, Pontecorvo, Nunn May, Kroger, Burgess, McLean, Blunt, Philby on and on, these lonely deciders held up a dark mirror to us, and the man in the street peered shyly in, and shuddered.

When people tell me I am a genre writer, I can only reply, "Yes, but the cold war, was a genre war." And now, thank God, my element, my genre, is no longer at the centre of our concerns. Though the spies spy on, they cannot impress us as they

Spying was the passion of my time. I was there, I felt some of it on my own body. I reported on it. And as I grew away from it, and recollected it in tranquility, I

made it my way of looking at life. So I ask myself: What did we become when we were who we were? And is it still around? And did we, in fighting for our freedom, give too much of it away?

The cold war is over, but I don't remember any singing in the streets or church bells ringing. Are we too tired to sing? Or too dazzled by our luck? Has something crippled us on our way from there to here?

Is our doctrine of endless expansion in a shrinking world as played out as the doctrine of endless revolution that we have just sent packing? A few years ago, when a far country was threatened by communism, we hurried to its aid. Their problem: was our problem. We made heroes out of tinpot dictators we shouldn't have entertained in the

Too often we confused anticolonialism with communism, but then the Communists did that, too. We gave money. Mostly, American money. Some of it feathered some pretty disgusting nests, but some of it got to the right places. At least we acted. We said we cared. Our response

to communism was sometimes

crude and sometimes misguided,

but it was the only one we had. It

was justified and it worked. Today, when a not-so-far country is torn apart by civil war, and. one of its ethnic minorities is being put to torture, rape and murder before our eyes, our politicians tell us not to become emotional. They mean: If you do,

you'll have to pay for it. "We didn't win the cold war just to get involved in other peo-

ple's fights. What's a little ethnic cleansing between ancient ene-mies? This is history man.

Meanwhile, America stands where she never stood before: as the undisputed victor of a twogeneration-long war of attrition. as the world's only superpower and - increasingly, it seems its only arbiter.

But Europe and America still hesitate. Because we are afraid not just of this involvement - in former Yugoslavia - but of the precedent we would be creating. "So we go in," say the doub-ters. "We bomb. We put in

ground troops. We clean the place up and as soon as we get out they start again. Is that what we're into now? Quartering the globe, intervening wherever the news media decide they can raise a tear in the public eye? Next stop Sudan? And after that, how about we grapple with the former Soviet Union maybe? They're having atrocities daily over there. while our eyes are still fixed on former Yugoslavia."

And then that same old sneering cry: "We're being too emo-

And, of course, they're right,

Except. Except that, if there is one eternal truth of politics it is that there are always a dozen good reasons for doing nothing. To do something, you've got to want to do it. Like, for instance, Desert

Then we're talking spheres of interest and geopolitics and honoring unbreakable promises. And we're allowed to be as emotional

Storm or the Falklands.

as we like. Just as long as we remember to keep our pity under control elsewhere.

Alas, whatever the outcome of. the present argument about what to do with former Yugoslavia, I don't think there's any way on earth that the United States can escape the responsibility for repeated and risky foreign intervention in the coming decades.

With the clamps of the cold war removed, old feuds are going to flare up everywhere. A Pax Americana of some kind is inevit-

Also - whatever isolationist faciings are abroad - I don't think that young America is going to put up with being a speciator to the rest of the world's misfortune,

The fight against communism diminished us. That's why we were unable to rejoice at our victory. It left in us a state of false and corrosive orthodoxy. It licensed our excesses, and we didn't like ourselves the better for them. It dulled our love of dissent and our sense of life's adventure.

In my country, and perhaps in America as well, the service industries of criticism have almost drowned the magic of creation. Our intellectuals hate too much; Our press revels in public executions. We are poisoning ourselves with malice. Yet we take no risks. We are not brave. Our orthodoxy still gives us no way out.

Yet we have never been so free. We no longer need to chp the wings of our humanity. It's time we flew again - Interna-tional Herald Tribune.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Talks of peace fizzle out as **Arab foreign ministers** expected to take decision

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The aborted ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, the repercussions of the invalidation of the Iraqi 25-banknote bill, the disputed Halaveb territory on the border between Egypt and Sudan, as well as a number of domestic issues were given prominence in the Jordanian press last

As was expected, the ninth round of peace talks in Washington had the same fate as the previous rounds: total collapse and failure, said Al Dustour daily. The ninth found proved that Israel is not serious about peace with the Arabs and will not implement any U.N. resolutions, the paper added. Therefore, said the paper, the Arab foreign ministers are expected to take a final decision with regard to the continuation of the peace pro-

Abdul Rahim Omar, a colunnist in Al Ra'i, said that only the use of arms can make Israel understand that it must respect U.N. resolutions and the rights of others. He said that the talks have failed simply because they were not linked n any way to the ongoing battles in the streets of Pales-

He said that as long as the United States, which backs Israel in every way, remains hostile towards the Arabs nothing can be achieved.

Salameh Ekour, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, mocked the statements of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The delegation leaders have deceived the Palestinian people into believing that they had at last taken the initiative at the peace process in a manner that would ensure the success of the negotiations, said

He said that the Palestinian delegation had launched a wide media campaign which gave the erroneous impression that a Palestinian-Israeli agree-

ment was in the making.

His views were backed by Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dustour, who said that Palestinian delegation members have been issuing statements contradicting each other and succeeded only in misleading the public. The Palestinian people wanted to hear statements reflecting objectively the progress of the talks and not mere expectations, she said. The public wanted solid facts rather than the creation of a false atmosphere of optim-

ism, she added. Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, recalled that before the start of the ninth round American officials, including Bill Clinton, had been ssuing stern warnings against those trying to obstruct the

peace process, saying that Washington would not remain passive at the talks.

In fact, Washington pledged to play the role of full partner in the peace process, added the writer. He said that the Americans, regretably, allowed the Israelis to obstruct the peace talks and allowed themselves to remain passive regarding Israel's intransigent position, ing the Gulf war Iraq had tried thus rendering the peace pro-

Saleh Qallab called on the PLO to invite the Arabs to an urgent summit and ask for an explanation from those Arab countries which had exercised pressure on the Palestinians to return to the talks, which ended in failure. The columnist who writes in Al Dustour, said that the PLO should strongly ask the Arab states to back its moves, at all international levels, to restore the rights of the Palestinians and accept its conditions for further talks

cess a total failure.

with Israel from now on. The invalidation of the Iraqi 25-dinar banknote drew mixed reactions from columnists in the Jordanian press last week. Hani Saoudi said that no one should blame the Jordanians who kept Iraqi currency because during the two Gulf wars Jordan's markets were inundated with the Iraqi currency as the Kingdom continued to provide supplies to Iraq, espe-

cially during its war with Iran. The writer, in his column appearing in Al Ra'i daily, said that the Jordanian people were dealt severe blows not only by the invalidation of the Iraqi banknote but also throughout the two wars in the region and due to the loss of valuable

He demanded that a Jordanian-Iraqi agreement be worked out to safeguard the Jordanian people's interests through special arrangements and bank accounts supervised by the Central Bank of Jordan.

Mohammad Subeihi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that; those who kept Iraqi dinars at home were speculating with the Iraqi people's money hoping that one day they would sell the carrency and make profits. The poor people of Jordan did not hoard any Iraqi currency and only the rich did that in a bid to amass more wealth at the expense of the suffering Iraqi people, Subeihi spid.

His views were countered by Ahmad Al Misleh, in Al Ra'i, who said that since Jordanian-Iraqi trade has been free and many Jordanian merchants kept accounts in Iragi currency something must be done to compensate the victims of the recent Iraqi move. He said the Central Bank should interfere with the Iraqi authorities to settle this issue and should also

interfere and control the current confusion and speculation in the local money markets.

Mahmoud Rimawi, who writers for Al Ra'i, said that it was the prerogative of the Iraqi government to protect the nation's interests in view of the continued sanctions and the econorie deterioration. The writer said that follow-

to normalise its relations with the world community, but all its attempts ended in failure. Moreover, attempts on the part of other nations were made to destroy the Iraqi economy through its currency, thus prompting the Iraqi This view was backed by

economist Fahed Fanek who said that according to the Iraqi law no Iraqi currency was supposed to leave the country Any Iraqi dinars found outside Iraq were illegal in the first place, said the writer in Al Ra'i. The speculators had hoped that one day they could exchange these dinars at the rate of three dollars to the dinar, thus amassing a fortune and further destroying the Ira-

qi economy, said the writer. Al Dustour daily expressed apprehension that the dis over Halayeb would drive Sudan and Egypt to war. The paper said that the two Arab states have been living in harmony for decades and it is sad to see them quarrelling over a disputed area whose problems

could be settled amicably. Abdul Rahim Omar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the dispute was triggered by the official economic and political stands of Khartoum and Cairo vis-a-vis each other. He said that being hostile to Sudan. Egypt is trying to offer service to the enemies of this Arab nation like it did during the

Gulf war on Iraq.

Mohammad Subeihi, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the government should take severe measures against the civil servants and employees in public institutions accepting gifts and favours from people who expect something in return, at the expense of the national interest.

Citing the example of China, where the government issued strict rules against accepting gifts, the writer said that in Jordan gifts are being given to all kinds of employees by private companies and in violation of Article 170 of the penal code which considers the acceptance of gifts as a bribe for which the culprit deserves two years imprisonment.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, called on the government to replace all non-Jordanian workers with job seekers in a strong move to end the unemployment problem.

TALKS ADJOURN UNTIL JUNE

U.S., Israeli and Palestinian papers 'could make up joint statement'

Arab-Israeli peace negotiations adjourned until June following three weeks of intense discussion and the active engagement of the United States as a full partner.

The leader of the U.S. peace talks team, Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Thursday that all the negotiating tracks had "demonstrated a deeper discussion of substance and

intense engagement." The negotiations involve direct peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours - Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — and discussions between Israeli and Palestinian representatives on interim self-governing arrangements for the occupied territories.

"Consistent with the efforts by the parties, the United States has stepped up its full partner role and has worked actively and productively with the parties to define issues and help produce common ground," Mr. Djerejian

On the Israeli-Palestinian track, important developments occurred, he said. The two sides formed working groups on land and water issues, on the concept of interim arrangements, and working group on human right... They exchanged substantive drafts of a declaration of princi-

ples.

These drafts were extensive in scope and addressed issues such as elections, interim selfgovernment arrangements, and security," Mr. Djerejian said. This work provides an important basis, in our view, for future

The Israelis and Palestinians subsequently agreed to engage seriously on a United States draft for a joint statement incorporating substantive elements of their own drafts, he said. "Both parties went beyond

simply articulating principles. We saw the evolution of positions and the beginning of the emergence of common elements in their stands on key issues," Mr. Dierejian said. Although the Palestinians were

dissatisfied with lack of improvements on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and reduced the size of their delegation and chose not to attend working groups for the last few days of negotiations, he said, "they did and have remained engaged." In this regard, playing the role

of full partner, the United States called a trilateral meeting with Israel and Palestinian delegates Wednesday in order to help the parties, he said. Although the Palestinians did not attend, the U.S. shared with Israel and with the Palestinians "a paper reflecting elements drawn from the Israeli and Palestinian papers which could, in our view, make up a joint statement," Mr. Djerejian explained.

"We discussed the U.S. paper in detail yesterday and today with both Israel and the Palestinians and will continue to do so," he said. Tabling the paper was designed "to capture the substantive progress that the sides had that need to be discussed further," Mr. Djerejian said.

On the Syrian-Israeli track, he said the parties continued to drawal, peace, and security. on the ground...in a way that can.
"They reviewed texts, engaged in help facilitate the talks themdetailed discussion of their posiconcepts such as simultaneity. Djerejian said, adding "the United States has also been deeply involved with Syria and Israel in an effort to help them move forward on the core issues."

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the parties established working groups to discuss key issues of importance to both sides. "The working groups have addressed substantive issues such as water, the environment, energy, economics and tourism, and refugees and displaced persons," he said.

On the Lebanon-Israeli track, Mr. Dierejian said, "for the first time we have substantive written proposals submitted by both sides now which address key issues in the negotiations. The delegations have begun the serious work of explaining and exchanging assessments on their respective documents," he said.

Mr. Dierejian said the U.S. was discussing with the parties reconvening the negotiations in June after the Jewish and Muslim holidays.

The negotiations on all the tracks have taken on a significantly different and more intense character and the United States intends to work with the parties. as a full partner, as they engage more deeply on the tough issues," he told the reporters. "But the parties must also do

"We will be there to help them in the important task of making peace. But we cannot do it for them," he said. "It is up to the parties to show the necessarily flexibility, creativity, and commitment to success required to achieve progress."

Noting the difficult situation on the ground in the occupied terri-

made during the last three weeks and help guide them toward areas on April 27, Mr. Djerejian said in response to questions that the U.S. has been active in dealing. with both the Israelis and the Palestinians "to see what can be address the core issues of with- done to alleviate the conditions.

> selves. meeting between Palestinians. Israelis and the U.S. certainly. should demonstrate a full partner role. This is something that the Palestinians themselves have been asking for," Mr. Djerejian

He also acknowledged not speaking of "a round" of negotia. tions as has been the case in the past. "We are talking about reconvening the negotiations," Mr. Djerejian said. "We think it's very important to maintain the momentum at the negotiating table. We have heard no objection to this from the parties," he

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The assistant secretary said that while there has been movement forward in substance on the various tracks, "each track has its own problems and the substantive differences are different in each track."

But the "level of engagement" on key issues has been "important and encouraging," Mr. Djerejian said. "We certainly would have welcomed that more progress be made in each one of the tracks, but we have to work with each one of the parties within the political parameters that they are dealing with and in the face of the particular key issues they have to address and the

substantive gaps they have to fill. "That obviously is not an easy task, but we are very intent on doing everything possible to help narrow those gaps," he said. "We have been very active on the Israeli-Syrian track in the last few weeks and we have been engaged very closely with both the Israelis and the Syrians on what we think would be necessary to move those substantive negotiations for-ward," Mr. Djerejian said.

LETTERS

Mistakes we pay for

To the Editor:

It was my misfortune to witness a horrendous accident today involving an ambulance and a private car at a busy intersection. The ambulance was on an emergency run with lights flashing but no siren. As we all know, ambulances, police cars, fire trucks etc. have right of way, even though the lights are against them, and as courteous drivers we give way to these vehicles. The car involved was crossing the intersection on a green light, in full compliance with the law. Had the driver heard the ambulance he would have been alerted and able to stop.

There has been a lot in the media recently about traffic accidents and the obvious necessity to educate people as to how to drive, safely and adhere to the rules and regulations which have been put in place to safeguard all road users. These rules were not made up on a whim, they save lives.

Countless times I have noticed ambulances making full use of their emergency lights but no siren. With this in mind, I implore the people who drive these emergency vehicles to use their sirens. We drivers hear you before we see you.



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Eurovision stars groups from Bosnia, Croatia

By Anne Senior Reuter

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CANTA TO MARCH

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DUBLIN - The Eurovision . Song Contest, the annual pop extravaganza that gave the world lyrics like Boom Bang-A-Bang and La La La, has become an unlikely showcase for the suffering in the former Yugoslavia.

The contest, long pilloried by music critics as a platform for the bland and banal, is enjoying a new lease of life this year courtesy of entries from Bosnia and Croania, and an offbeat venue - a showjumping arena in rural Ireland.

America is Bong, ang a speciator is corld's misforme A group of Bosnian musicians braved Sarajevo machine-gun fire to travel to this Saturday's songfest and to us a state of & Croatia is tipped for success with Don't Ever Cry, ensuring the much-derided but popular show will be an intriguing mix of pop and politics whatever its musical merits. Serbia is not

taking part.
Bosnia's ballad "The Pain Of The Whole World explores the plight of Serb-beseiged Sarajevo through a soldier's love song, striking a more serious note than the jauntry pop jingles that tend to score high marks with the juries of the 25 competing countries, all members of the European Broad-

Ireland is already gripped by "Eurovision-fever," with newspapers devoting page after page to this year's entries and to Irish millionaire businessman Noel C. Duggan, who hit on the idea of holding the contest at his equestrian

arena in southwest Ireland, some 270 kilometres from

Organisers reject the charge that Eurovision is, in the words of one Irish columnist, an "anachronistic showcase for puerile ditties," and insist the contest is undergoing a revival like 1970s hippy fashions and fizred trousers.

"It has cult status," said Deirdre Henchy, head of Eurovision publicity for the state-owned television service RTE, which is broadcasting the 38th annual song contest live to an estimated 300 million viewers around Europe and beyond.

Millions more are expected to tune into recordings of the programme, which will be seen a total of 33 countries.

"The media have been saying get out your tank-tops and your flares and sit down to Eurovision," Henchy said in a telephone interview from the contest venue in Millstreet, Country Cork.

"It's part of the nostalgia boom we're having." Sceptics suspect the twomillion-punt (\$3 million) contest is as much about promoting local tourism as European music, for Eurovision is not renowned for consistently good song-writing.

Previous winners include a host of near-nonsense titles, such as Spain's La La La in 1968, Britain's Boom-Bang-A-Bang in 1969, and Sweden's Diggi-Loo-Diggi-Ley from

Contestants are being whisked off this week to be

filmed in Irish beauty spots, whose attractions will be beamed into millions of potential tourists' homes on Eurovi-

sion night. "We are delighted to have this opportunity of attracting visitors to the southwest at the earlier part of the tourist season and thus increasing local revenue," RTE's Director General Joe Barry said at the launch of the Millstreet pro-

Eurovision has made Millstreet into a boom town, inspiring endless newspaper articles here on how the rural backwater with 13 pubs but no hotel is to become the "musical capital of Europe" for the day on May 15.



Vivien Galletta (left) and Melita Sedic, who form the group PUT, the Croatian entry in the Eurovision Song Contest, wave to the photographers in Ireland (AFP photo)

The tranquil village has been transformed into a high-tech communication hub for the contest. New telephone cables have been specially laid, a satellite station is ready to beam the tunes around the world, and the village has even been equipped with its first set of traffic lights.

Mr. Duggan, a self-made millionaire who pestered organisers with requests to hold the show at his Green Glens Arena after Ireland won last year in Sweden with Why Me? is being feted as a folk hero for boosting the local economy.

He said Tuesday he was "praying to God" everything would go right on the night.

The Bosnian group Fazla from Sarajevo, which describes itself as ethnically mixed, is hoping for a win for the strifetorn city. "We just pray God to have the peace in our country," said spokeswoman Isme-ta Krvavac in a RTE radio interview Tuesday, adding the group wanted Eurovision to be held in Sarajevo next year if they triumph Saturday. But for the group, which left

Sarajevo during a burst of shelling and machine-gun fire, it is probably not the winning but the taking part in a highpublicity contest that matters.

Croatia's patriotic song with a catchy English chorus is hot favourite with some bookmakers to win the contest on a sympathy vote. Other fancied entries are Britain's Sonia with the jolly Better The Devil You Know and Ireland, In Your Eyes sung by Niamh Kava-

Religion and nationalism could forge a healthy nation

By Zuleikha Abu Risheh

The following article is translated from Al Ra'i daily, where it appeared on May 14 1993.

The joke about a Soviet citizen who served as an American agent claiming he would, in a number of years, ruin the world's second major power without spending a single penny, by simply placing the wrong man in the wrong place, is not really a joke, but rather a fact. Indeed, this has been the de facto socialist experiment in the former Soviet Union and other Socialist nations.

The bureaucracy which had weakened this socialist experiment, has transformed the regime from one upholding the slogan of justice and equality into one which is plagued by administrative and financial corruption. This had been one of the main

reasons for the dramatic collapse of the system. But there were other reasons like, for example, the attitude towards religion and nationalism. Under Soviet rule. the individual, as indeed the whole society, was deprived of exercising religion, and the reg-ime considered religious people as enemies of communism. It was impossible under this regime for any religious person to reach a high and influential position. Mosques, churches and religious men were a mere show case for the communist state which claimed that it was not anti-

religion. Coupled with the hostility towards religion, there had been open enmity towards nationalism. Communism was oriented against any form of nationalism because it believed in the unity of the working class around the world. It had thus succeeded in achieving this goal, to some extent by using oppression, but no sooner had the Soviet Union come face to face with the so called perestroica than commun-

ism found itself confronting a great danger: the thirst of nationalities to emerge, the unity between East and West Germany, the independence of the Soviet republics.

it is the one which caters to the

creator. Political religion is that

form of religion peddled by cer-

tain groups in their struggle to-

wards acquiring power. There-

fore, resisting these groups

Faced with this situation, the Soviet empire began to feel the urgent need to return to its real national and religious identity. close ties with Mr. Bush, as it Any regime harbouring enmity towards religion and nationalism is bound to be facing a great danger because these two ele-

ments are deeply embedded in the nations of the world. uphoid rights in Saudi Arabia rentiate between pure relgion and

fore the handover to Mr. Clinton

in January spoke of "pervasive abuse" of human rights. Among problems it listed were "torture and other abuse of prisoners and incommunicado detention, execution for apostasy, prohibitions or severe restrictions on the freedoms of speech and press. peaceful assembly and association, and the denial of the right of

should not be interpreted as resisting religion itself, regardless—who have been frustrated in the of these groups' claims that they have the right to wage a holy war. But this statement should not

in any way, be interpreted as an advocacy to resist such groups by violence and force. Generally speaking, the Arab

arena is currently witnessing a political Islam, which is alien to the nature of true Islam. This political Islam is a tool used by the Islamists who try to justify their struggle to attain power and draw around them followers, taking advantage of the fact that the Arab people are always ready and willing to accept Islamic teachings, especially when faced with difficult circumst-

By contrast, within the capital-ist system of the West we can see the power emanate from the fact that they grant, freedom to individuals and groups, allowing them to freely exercise their own religious rites, leading their own spiritual lives or aspiring to attain their nationalist goals.

These Western systems of governments have allowed the public the freedom of expression and criticism on any subject, including religion and national feelings. But these systems, at the same time, have created appropriate mechanisms to resist extremism. racial and sexual decomination In Britain, for instance, even the royal family did not escape the impudent criticism of the media and publications which have been revealing the secrets in the private life of the royal family mem-

In the United States the system of government did not condone the Watergate scandal, neither has the public ever supported those who lack integrity; even George Bush, who was victorious in the Gulf war lost the support of the American electorate.

Now back to the nations' thirst for freedom and religious prac-

One can only warn that the "Islamists' thought" which openly declares its enmity towards nationalism is bound to face the same crisis like that of the Soviet Union should these groups attain their Goal and take over power. They would be exercising the single party dictatorship, their ideology on others and depriving people of free expression.

It is perhaps useful for all of us to learn from the Soviet experiment and open our eyes the situation in where the religious campaign is political religion. Pure religion is overshadowing all other feelings, the one exercised by my mother, resembling the struggle which communism had waged against needs of the spirit and the relanationalism. tionship between man and his

Should people be forced to accept this dominant power, by book or by crook, the religious movement would be wielding the power with which it would control all aspects in people's lives. If this happened, ordinary people past will not find respite or a satisfactory solution to their ines. They would watch others exploiting the situation, joining the singparty and acquiring higher positions.

In the search for religion and discovering facts, one is bound ailing social, cultural and economic realities.

In the absence of democracy, in light of repression and lack of social justice, due to the political and administrative corruption and the deteriorating economic situation and as a result of the continued defeats and conflicts, the seeds embedded in the hearts of people blossom in reaction to what is happening around them.

This of course gives way to political religion, opening the way for certain groups to take advantage of the situation.

A religious, person is the one who exercises religious rites, worships God in the normal manner, does not contemplate or harbour enmity towards the idea of nationalism and does not consider opting for "an Islamic Nation" unless encouraged and instigated to do so by a political speech called "in Islam hes the solution."

Groups falling under the influence of this slogan try to deal with various crisis by using it.

Islamist influential groups hope to transform the slogan in the next stage into one saying "Solution lies with the Islamists."

It is at this next stage that these groups attempt to seize power. Yet, numerous religious people have not yet had their brains washed by the political groups as they still retain their normal feelings towards Nationalism. At the same time, they are not

doing harm to or opposing their own faith. It is on these people that we

depend for reviving nationalist ideology to serve as a common denominator for all Arabs. Religion and Arabism are twin factors within the Arab Nation. It is not in the interest of our nation to eradicate one in favour of the other. Otherwise we would be facing tragedies, further dismemberment and divisions, just live in the former Soviet Union.

Correction

Due to an editorial mistake. Najwa Najjar-Kort's article "Israeli absence from Palestirate identities" (Jordan Times May 13, 1993) should have had the last paragraph as a note reading: "The writer (Mrs. Najjar) has recently returned from Jerusalem and is currently working as a filmmaker in Amman," instead of "Mr. Kuttal, himself a writer,

Influence of Saudi rights group played down

By Youssef Azmeh Reuter

DUBAI - Saudi officials have dismissed as insignificant and ineffectual a group of six conservative religious figures who have openly challenged Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family over the sensitive issue of human rights.

The six conservative religious figures formed the first private. independent human rights pressure group in the puritanical Muslim country where the authority

of the monarch remains divine. Western diplomats in the region said although creation of the group could prove awkward, it on Saudi Arabia's close alliance

with the West. The alliance is strategic ... We need their oil ... They are a stable element in a volatile region ... You should not expect any change in the short to medium said one senior diplomat.

The Saudi officials said the government saw the formation of the group as an act of disloyalty by an unrepresentative minority that did not pose a threat.

"They are all fanatics .. .They have no clout ... What weight have they got in society," senior official, who would not be named, said of the group led by a former head of Diwan Al Mazalim, Saudi Arabia's equivalent of

would not have a marked effect an ombudsman. SPD risks long summer of hot divisive debate

By Tom Heneghan

BONN - In their search for a new standard-bearer, Germany's leaderless opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have opted for a risk many were eager to avoid a long hot summer of political in-fighting before a decision is

Fear of the so-called "summer theatre," the annual mix of miniscandals and blunders that fill the political dog days in Bonn, has and of engagent hung like a heavy cloud over the disoriented partys since former Chairman Bjoern Engholm quit last week after admitting he lied to an official inquiry six years

An SPD squabbling its way through the summer would be a gift for a scandal-hungry press, and many members fear the party could end up in poor shape to start its campaign to unseat Chan-cellor Helmut Kohl in October But despite marathon discus-

sions Sunday and Monday, the SPD's ever-fractious factions could only agree to move forward a party congress from November to September.

The fast-moving debate within the main opposition party has actually complicated the search for a new leader as new names, including Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD's failed canddiate in 1990, are thrown into the ring.

Two state premiers, Gerhard Schroeder of Lower Saxony and

Rufolf Scharping from Rhine-land-Palatinate, lead the pack in the race to become the SPD's chairman and its fifth designated candidate since Mr. Kohl took office in 1982.

The ambitious Schroeder, who stands to the left of Scharping, pressed so openly for a quick decision that he angered two groups in the party — middle-of-the-road Social Democrats and

the Eastern Germans. The party's other decision this week — to canvass all its 900,000 members before choosing a leader - aims to slow down Mr. Schroeder and give more time for the lesser-known Scharping to win more recognition around the

Jordan Times: Tel. 667171

"It's a "block Schroeder" strategy," Peter Struck, the SPD parliamentary whip, admitted in an unusual moment of blunt talk in the otherwise cautious shadow-

boxing over the leadership. Renate Schmidt, the Bavarian SPD leader interested in running for chancellor, was one of several leaders who warned against going into the unpredictable "summer theatre" period with a leadership

struggle still open. But she said Tuesday that practical consideratisons had intruded. "Because of our party laws, it is impossible to hold a party congress before the summer

The party also wants to organise some kind of consultation with its members, many of whom find party leaders out of touch with the problems that voters actually face.

A classic example is the debate over limiting immigration, opposed by SPD national leaders ideological grounds but favoured by many of their col-leagues who have to grapple with the problem in town halls, district councils and state assemblies.

A marathon strategy session

Monday evening rejected the idea of an American-style primary poll to choose a new leader. But support for more dialogue with members was so strong that party manager Karlbeinz Blessing was asked to work out a method of consulting them in the next few

Commentators have been withering in their criticism of the SPD for indulging in months of internal fighting rather than presenting a real alternative to Mr. Kohi's exhausted government.
"The headless SPD is now showing us what it can still do

even when all else has failed pay attention to itself," Berlin's Tagesspiegel newspaper wrote. The attempt to conjure up a leader out of the test tube of an

opinion poll is nothing else than an admission of failure by the party leadership. Amid all these problems, the party drew at least some consolation from a new opinion poll that showed their woes had not translated into more support for Mr.

One of Saudi Arabia's senior princes, King Fahd's brother Prince Salman who is also governor of the capital Riyadh, summoned the group on Saturday to try to dissuade them but they isted on carrying on, accord-

ing to a participant. Mohammad Abdallah Al Masaari, son of the group's Secretary Sheikh Abdallah Al Masaari, said in a telephone interview with Reuters on Tuesday the six founder members of the group saw themselves as a factor for stability in the kingdom and "not as subversives aiming to harm the state or to weaken it." Mr. Masaari attended Saturday's meeting with the six found-

> They are a controversial er Soeiko Adgel K Al Jibrine, a professor of Islamic theology, a senior lawyer, a Muslim activist who has preached in Sudan and Afghanistan, and a professor at a theological university who is also a leading writer and satirised former U.S. President George Bush in a poem widely circulated during the Gulf

> Independent Saudi sources said

Sheikh Jibrine, a popular preacher, was a hardliner who branded members of Islam's

although the six were prominent, they were not part of the religious iunior Shiite sects as infidels, in effect sanctioning their judicial slaughter.

The sources said he had also made statements against Christians and Jews.

They said the establishment remained largely loyal to the throne and accepted the king not only as a secular ruler but also as religious leader of a country founded 60 years ago as a puritanical and strict Islamic state. Mr. Masaari said from Riyadh the formation of the group was triggered by the jailing of two Saudi preachers, Sheikh Mohammad Al Dibyan and Sheikh Mohammad Oboud Al Assiri.

Reports from the kingdom speak of a crackdown on preachers who have been attackespecially since Saudi Arabia allowed more than 500,000 mainly American troops to be based there during the 1990-91 Gulf

Some argued the presence of non-Muslims had sullied the holy land that hosts Islam's most sacred shrines in Mecca and

Mr. Masaari admitted the religious establishment would disapprove of the group's activities. Officials, who could not speak for the government until it reacted publicly to the group,

were quick to point out the irony

of having Sheikh Jibrine as a founder of a human rights group.
"There is a contradiction between human rights and sanction-

ing the shedding of the blood of infidels," one said of his anti-Shiite fatwa. Western diplomats said although the group did not repre-

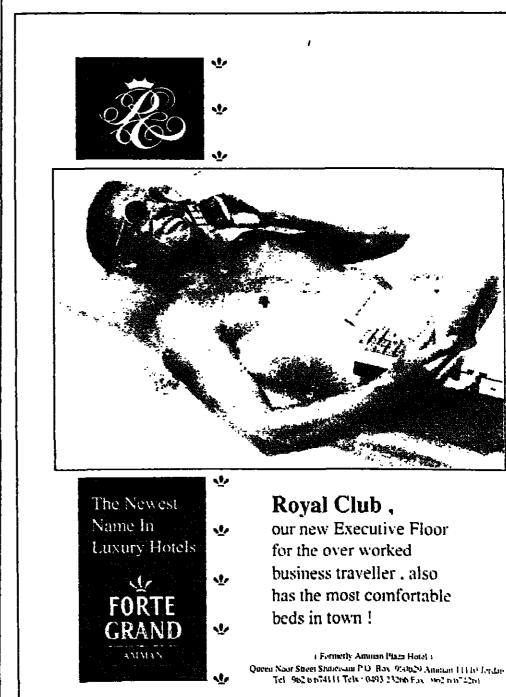
sent a serious threat, it could bring pressure to speed up democratic reforms promised early last It also comes at an awkward time for Saudi Arabia, which had

tries to build up a similar rela-tionship with the Clinton administration. There is an anti-Saudi lobby in Washington that will remind Clinton of his pre-election pledge

as elsewhere," one diplomat said. A U.S. State Department re-port on human rights in Saudi Arabia published a few days be-

citizens to change their govern-





of ADB agree on need to tighten lending

ABIDJAN (R) — Governors of the African Development Bank (ADB) ended their annual meeting Thursday in broad agreement on tightening loan policy but dif-fering on how tough restrictions should be.

The bank's Senegalese president, Babacar Ndiaye, said Wednesday that loans to defaulting and low-income countries could be reduced or halted, but the slack should be taken up by the ADB's soft-loan arm, the African Development Fund

Bank sources say arrears at the end of 1992 were about \$356 — 4.9 per cent of loans outstanding — and latest figures indicate that the proportion of arrears rose to over six per cent by the end of March.

At a news conference Thursday, Nigeria, the largest single ADB shareholder, said that while it accepted the principle of tighter lending no African country

should be turned away by the "All categories of African countries must have access to both the concessionary and nonconcessionary windows of the bank group. Anything less will be unacceptable to Nigeria, "Fi-

nance Minister Oladele Olashore

The ADF "should therefore complement but should not be used to supplant the objectives and programmes of its mother agency the ADB.

Bank sources said moving highrisk lending from the ADB to the ADF would protect the bank's credit standing on Western capit-al markets and give donors from developing countries more say in how money was disbursed

Voting in the ADB is weighted against non-regional members while in the ADF they have equality with their regional part-

Mr. Ndiaye has called for ADF funds to be boosted by 50 per : 1994/96 rec period. Non-regional shareholders are expected to hold out for less but are unwilling to say how

much.
Talks on the ADF replenishment only begin tomorrow and could well go into the beginning of next year, it's far too early to talk about numbers." a senior official told Reuters.

In an effort to reduce tensions between regional and nonregional members, the meeting set up a consultative committee which in addition to making recommendations on ADF funding will also debate financial and operational policy.

Non-regional governors, not-ably the United States and Japan, emphasised the need for African states to persevere with structural adjustment programmes and launch campaigns to reduce population growth.

Governors | Peseta devaluation meets wave of criticism in Spain

MADRID (R) - Spain's decision to devalue the peseta by eight per cent met a wave of political recrimination Friday, with opposition parties, unions and business leaders demanding the government's economic policy be jettisoned.

The devaluation was a bitter pill for a socialist government facing elections on June 6 which could see it lose power after 10 years, and for its goals of con-verging with its EC partners.
"This government has de-

valued our currency three times in eight months, and has created an unacceptable situation of economic weakness," said opposition candidate Jose Maria Aznar, of the centre-right Popular Party

The socialists had hoped to hold off pressure on the peseta until the elections, and the forced capitulation is likely to cost it valuable votes. But Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said the decision was taken regardless of the electoral consequences.

He told a group of Spanish journalists the devaluation had allowed interest rates to fall and meant a point of departure for economic recovery, but few accepted his enthusiasm.

"The policy of keeping high interest rates and an overvalued peseta shows the failure of an . economic model that has weakened economic activity, employment and investment without correcting imbalances," the business federation CEOE said.

A senior General Workers Union official said devaluation was Spain's economic problems. Growth in 1993 is expected to be close to zero after 0.8 per cent in 1992, a far cry from the five per cent average of the late 1980s.

United Left (I.U.) leader Julio Anguita said the policy aimed at convergence with Europe had failed, and called for a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.

The decision followed several days of heavy peseta selling, and the authorities said they were not prepared to allow any more emorrhage of reserves. Less than a year ago Spain had about \$70 billion in reserves, but now some analysts say the figure could be close to \$20 billion.

Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga said that although taking the peseta out of the European Exchange Rate mechanism had been an option, the government had never seriously considered it. He said the government remained committed to EC con-

The adjustment, which follows five per cent devaluation last September and one of six per cent in November, leaves the peseta's central parity in the European Exchange Rate mechanism at 79.11 to the mark against 72.7877

Economic analysts generally agreed with Mr. Solchaga's belief that the eight per cent devalua-tion should be enough now to contain speculative pressure on the peseta, which early Friday firmed a little from levels above

76 late Thursday. The decision to devalue on a inevitable but would not solve Thursday caught markets by sur-

prise. Although it had become increasingly unlikely the govern-ment could hold out until the elections, it was not expected so soon. Mr. Solchaga said it was taken deliberately to wrong-foot

speculators. It was in part influenced by alarming unemployment figures Thursday that showed the rate rose to 21.74 per cent in the first quarter from 20.1 per cent in the last three months of 1992. There are now 3.3 million out of work in

But the effectiveness of the move cannot be gauged in isola-

'The step could turn counterproductive unless accompanied by measures that restore market confidence in management of the economy," said Antonio Pulido, of F.G. Inversiones Bursatiles. For foreign investors, the reforms in large part mean mea-sures to ensure moderate rises in wage costs and streamlined

ciencies in the economy. Policy minefields lurking ahead include how to deal with the inflationary aspect of the devaluation, soaring unemployment and the surging budget deficit. A plus point is the rapidly impro-ving current account deficit. The Bank of Spain Friday as

labour laws to weed out ineffi-

expected cut its key interest rate by 1.5 percentage points to 11.5 per cent, in a move Mr. Solchage said Thursday would help revive investment.

Spanish banks had already announced prime rate cuts of one to one and a half points after news of the devaluation.

Bosnia also suffers 'balkanisation' of the pocketbook

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The frag-mentation of Bosnia-was unstable. The money system Herzegovina extends to the pocketbook. At least six currencies most of them worthless — freely circulate through the country.

Want to buy fuel in Kiseljak, headquarters of the U.N. protection force and nominally under Croat militia control? It will cost 60,000 Bosnian dinars per litre 0.25 gallons). Since 10,000 dinar notes are the largest printed, that means filling every pocket with a wad of cash.

But it's no problem is you have German marks. The same litre will cost three marks.

Officially, the national currency is the Bosnia-Herzegovina dinar, distributed only as paper bills which are printed in Switzer-

But "B.H.", 2s they are known, do not generally circulate within the capital Sarajevo. By the time the new bills were printed, the city was already under siege by Bosnian Serb forces, who refused permission for the United Nations to fly in the money.

So the government circulated "Sarajevo dinars," special notes which look different, but are nominally worth the same.

The Bosnian government controls only a small percentage of the territory. The majority is controlled by Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats. In those areas, many people use non-convertible national currencies of Yugoslavia Serbia and Montenegro — or the Croatian government in Zag-

But the real king of the Bosnian economy is the German mark, which is welcome and preferred everywhere. The U.S. dollar stands a distant second and generally trades equal to the mark although the dollar is officially worth about 1.60 marks.

"Before the war, some banks gave favourable rates for the mark which were different from the official rate," said retired journalist Enver Begic. "As a else.

is in such chaos."

With foreign money floating in the economy, Bosnian currency is worth virtually nothing.

Croatian and Serbian currency is only marginally stronger. That's great for those with access to even small amounts of German or U.S. currency received from family and friends abroad.

At the public market in Sarajevo, crowds of men loiter near the stalls, offering to ex-change marks or dollars for wads of Bosnian money. At the main hotel in Tuzla, one of the few major cities outside of Sarajevo under government control, a man's haircut costs 20,000 Bosnian dinars. That's one mark or about \$0.60.

But for those who must survive on Bosnian currency, the chaos has created a situation reminiscent of Germany after World War I, when inflation was so high that it took a wheelbarrow full of money to buy bread.

White-collar workers in Sarajevo earn between 200,000 and 250,000 dinars a month, or about 10-12 German marks (\$6-

A kilogramme of lamb in the main city market costs 800.000 dinars, or about four month's

"I live from my salary, which is one German mark a month," said Nermina Dzafic, 46, an electrical engineer with a master's degree. and a mother of two. "But I don't really live on that. I live on humanitarian aid."

In areas without foreign currency in circulation, cigarettes have been surpassed the Bosnian dinar as a preferred currency. During the siege of Srebrenica,

the French humanitarian organisation Medecin Sans Frontieres made sure ample supplies of cigarettes were included in U.N. convoys because its local staff refused to be paid in anything

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Pay hikes in Japan average 3.86%

TOKYO (R) - Pay rises for Japanese salaried worker, this focal year are the worst since 1987 because of the country's protracted economic slump, the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren) has said. Pay rises for the fiscal year started April 1 averaged 3.86 per cent, the lowest since 1987 when the average pay rise came to only 3.44 per cent after a sharp rise in the yen hit the economy, the organisation said. The average pay hike was 4.92 per cent in the last fiscal year. The survey was based on questionnaires sent to 326 big companies listed on Japanese stock exchanges with 500 employees or more.

Bahrain car imports rise

MANAMA (R) - Bahrain imported 4,305 vehicles worth 20.5 million dinars (\$54 million) in the first quarter of 1993, mainly from Japan, the Gulf News Agency has said. It said Bahram imported 12,840 vehicles worth 65 million dinars (\$172.4 million) during the entire 1992.

Shanghai Metals Exchange seeks foreign members

PEKING (AP) - The Shanghai Metals Exchange is looking for foreign members to share their expertise in futures trading, the official China Daily has said. The newspaper said companies from the United States, Japan, Britain and Germany already have applied for membership, but did not identify them. The exchange opened in May 1992 and handled a total of 117 billion yuan (\$20.6 billion) in transactions by mid-April 1993. But most trading is in spot wholesale or forward contracts, rather than true futures contracts, the paper said. It quoted the vice president of the metals exchange, Hu Yuezheng, as saying that admitting foreign members would enable the exchange to "emulate their expertise in futures trading." He suggested that the exchange first admit Chinese companies operating overseas. China has set up wholesale markets for grain, pork, and other agricultural and industrial commodities over the past three years with the intent of gradually developing them into futures markets. Last this month, the southern city of Canton opened China's first futures clearing

Canada opens credit line for Poland

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada has established a 40 million dollar (\$31.3) line of credit for Poland, Canadian Industry Minister Michael Wilson has announced. "The new line of credit will encourage stronger commercial relations between our two countries," Mr. Wilson said in a statement. "The funding is primarily, but not exclusively, in support of the sale of equipment and services in the environmental, telecommunications, oil and gas and agricultural sectors." The Canadian initiative fulfills a pledge made by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney at a Group of Seven industrialised nations summit in Munich in July 1992. The line of credit is funded by using monies appropriated for a Polish stabilisation plan that were not used and returned.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: So many good aspects abound today that you should be able to achieve all kinds of goals that you have matters interfere. been wanting to accomplish. You may want some time off and just

have a good time. ARIES: March 21 to April 19) business, on the road etc. make sure you carry through with what-ever your work load and don't seek

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to make yourself much more presentable and get the good will of any contacts early in the day but later expect problems

with those you like. GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Many chores at your residence can be done by being up and at them early so schedule your time and

you produce right results then avoid an outside upsetting person. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your need for more in-

formation can be gained by sear-ching it out whiel later you find that you have to apply yourself carefully to get tasks finished. LEO: (July 22 August 21) You would be wise to apply yourself to the various attention required to

do what will add to your income and revenue and sidestep enter-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like perfection and can place it in your personal life by

3 Inter — 4 Sucker 5 Solemn 6 Bitter

more attention to your own personal needs and don't let family

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Private and intimate chores should occupy your attention so you have them in back of you so don't go off on the town until they are finished.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make waves going after the personal things you want the most and let your wants be known to good friends, then take care not to

tie up any assets. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A good day to get out in the world and attend to whatever civic or community or credit conditions can be improved,

then avoid dwelling on a private CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get well acquainted with all phases of a project that

attracts and appeals to you so you are ready for it and avoid a gossipy AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into statements, re-

ports, bills and collectionse and get money affairs in good order but don't be that gregarius Aquarius you so enjoy being. PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) Take some extra time today to find out what an equitable partner expects of you and don't disappoint but carry through but avoid public duties.

U.S. gives Romania crash course in farming

GIURGIU, Romania (R) — The United States is giving Romania's new private farmers a crash course to help their country regain its position as a breadbasket of Europe.

Romania was a major agricultural exporter before the communists seized power after World War II. But 45 years of communist rule turned the country into an economic basket-case.

"Agriculture will be the main to speed up Romania's transition to a market economy and, with determination, this country can become once again a breadbasket," said Jonathan Rickert, charge d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Bucharest.

Mr. Rickert was speaking at the launch of a farm show in this Danube River port, 64 kilometres south of Bucharest. His speech, delivered in fluent Romanian, drew applause and cheers from

The show was organised by the U.S. Agency for International Development, with help from local authorities, to promote private farming in this Balkan coun-

After the collapse of communist rule across eastern Europe in 1989, Washington funded a longterm project to assist the growth of private farming as part of

market-economy reforms in the

The project, involving U.S. organisations such as Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) and U.S. agricultural firms like Pioneer Hibred Seeds and Land O'Lakes, is focused on granting technical

assistance to Romanian farmers. "I've spent one month on dairyfarms in this country and told the folks everything about alfalfa crops, which they need for their ttle." farmer Donald from the state of Minnesota, told

Reuters. Mr. Forner, 67, is one of the volunteers enlisted by VOCA, mostly from retired U.S. farmers, who spend between one and three months on Romania's new private farms to give advice on

specific agricultural projects. Up to now Romania has distributed some 8.2 million hectares (20.3 million acres) of land out of the total agricultural area of 14.8 million hectares (36.6 million acres) - to private farmers under land reform adopted

A million more hectares (2.5 million acres) have yet to pass

into private hands. But only 180,000 land owners have been issued with title deeds, out of a total 4.9 million people entitled to own plots.

"Now that we own the land, we

properly," said local farmer Paul Constantin, as he elbowed his way through the crowds in the central town square for a better look at the farm exhibits on dis-Several small Chinese tractors

also need equipment to work it

and locally made disc harrows, glittering in the spring sunshine, were the stars of the farm show. Many Romanian farmers say they cannot afford to buy modern m machinery but they are also reluctant to joint private farming

associations Communism gave a bad name to cooperatives, as entire generations of Romanian farmers were cheated out of their land and turned into paid hands on state

collective farms. A recent survey in the weekly Adevarul economic magazine showed that new private farming associations, with 1.6 million members, account for just 43 per cent of the distributed land area.

But with U.S. farmers like Mr. Forner preaching the Gospel of private farming associations; word is spreading across the countryside that "big is beauti-

"I'm so happy the American farmers are here. With their wisdom and our brains and brawn we can work wonders," Mr. Constantin said with a cheerful smile.

Kenya devalues currency for 3rd time in 4 months

NAIROBI (R) Kenya de- port. valued the official rate of its shilling currency by a marginal 4.67 per cent against the dollar Friday, commercial banks said.

They said the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) posted its daily mean rate at 63.15 Kenyan shillings to the dollar compared to 60.20 previously.

It was the third official de-

valuation in four months and followed a row between the government and Western donor agencies and governments over liberalisation measures needed for a restoration of balance of payments support.

Last month the World Bank broke off an 18-month standoff with the East African nation, once the region's economic engine, and announced a resumption of balance of payments sup-

ing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have not yet committed themselves to the Kenyan economic programme. An IMF team is currently in the country reviewing Kenya's economic performance. An IMF

Other Western donors includ-

balance of payments support of up to \$40 million from Western donors. Economic analysts said the creeping devaluations were in line with the agreement reached with the bank and would go a long way in pleasing the fund.

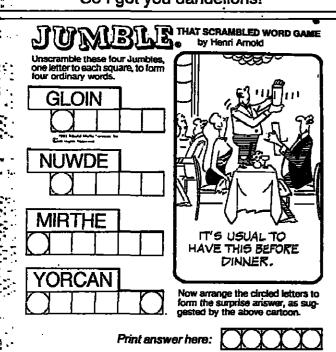
approval underwrites monthly

Commercial bankers said private banks were quoting between 70 and 74 shillings to the dollar on the inter-bank market, used to fund private business deals.

Peanuts



"Roses have an attitude and think they're superior to all the other flowers. So I got you dandelions!"



Jumbles: HABIT MADAM GUITAR FORMAL

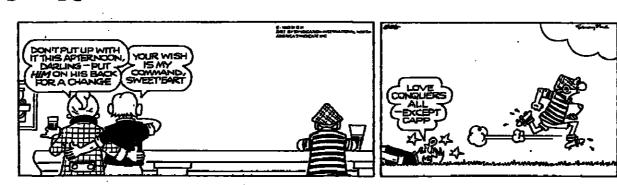
Someone who raids the refrigerator for a midnight snack---A "HAM-BURGLAR"







Andy Capp





THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler 1 Nuncupat 5 Side dish 10 Copycat 14 French composer 15 Shade of green 16 Donated 17 Iniquitous 18 Mushroom 19 Region 20 Pinniped 21 Remember 23 Burl of music 25 Mean 26 Prevent free rnovement 29 Contends on even terms 32 Scari 33 Drink 34 "— a jofly good. ." 37 Camel 41 Evil spell 42 Ananias 43 Nest 44 Acquire 46 Roving in se Puzzie Solved of adventure 47 — Park, Colo. 50 Actress Meara 51 Diplomas 55 Cartoonist Thomas 59 Ascend 9 Cold cuts store 10 Tropical lizards



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playwright 56 God of war 57 Fastener 58 Stylish

Jeprechauns 36 Let it stand

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	700 TO	CLOSING PRICE	MICE	77.102
ARAB BAds				
JORDAN BATIONAL BANK	852,975 672,665		138.250	
CAIRS ANNUAL BANK BANK OF JORDAN	1,790	25,750	26.000	24.000
MIDDLE PAST INVESTMENT CARE			25.001	
AMOUNTALAL DEVELOPHENT RANK	1,760,165 185,810			7,260 4,030
THE HOUSING BANK JORDAN BUWAIT BANK	91,277			
ARAB CORDAN LINESTHERY RIVER	454,4 56 53,410			
JORDAN LILANIC BANK DRION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	48,175	4.400	4.350	4,460
POSTERSE BANK	38,805 33,2 4 0			
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FIRANCE BANK	10,650		6,050	6.296
BETT ZINAL SAVIBELIBUZZINENT FOR MOUSING ANNUE BANK FOR INVESTMENT	87,49 5 325,205			
ARAB BARKING CORPORATION/TORONA	40,414			3.830
PHILADEIPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	2,422,39 5 3,450			
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	9,828	2.650	7.600	
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4,357			
DN:VERSA: INSURANCE	260,584 13,500		3.250 2.700	
ARAB LIPE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	101,979	2.950	2.950	
AL-HISE AL-ARABI IRSURABLE	14,54 7 401	3. 960 4,260	3.009 4.405	
JORDAN EDIEL & TOURISH	377,050	1.990	1.956	
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	34,975 5,346			
VINICLES CHIEFS PEDERATION	26,282	5,760	5.700	5.750
ARAB INTERNATIONAL ROTELS JORDAN HATIGNAL SKIPPING LINES	172.2 9 0 5,461			
JORGAN TOURISH & SPA COMPLEY	75,995	0,530	0.540	0-679
MATIGMAL POSTPOLIO SECURITIES REAL ESTATE DEVESTIGNES	357,433 204,054			
Jordan Gulp Real Estate investigat	463,144	0.950	0.746	0.760
PETRA ENTERNATIONAL TRADING CONTEX	151,673 31,144	1.170		
MACULTARY SOCIP. RESTING & MAINTENANCE	7,096	1.350	1.350	1.330
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ACRA'I JORDAN PRESS & PUBLICHING /AD-BOSTOOR	2,226		16.650 6.500	
DELIED MINORS EAST & COMMODORS MOTERS	975 146,628	4.500 2.210		
JORDAN TORACCO & CICAMETTES ATTARQUEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	64,479	29.250	27.799	
THE JORDAN CIPTURE FACTORIES	7,470 1,224,117	2,200	2.180	2.220
JORDAN PRESPRATE MINES JORDAN PRINCIPLE REP: MANY	332,960	4.500		
ACCOUNT AND TARRESC	160,016 21, 09]	7.700	10.550 7.766	
MODILE INDUSTRIES THE INDUSTRIAL CONNECTIAL & ADRICULTURAL	37, 368	2.500	2,600	3.090
THE JORDAN MORSTED MILES	204,505 27,265	7,140 7,410	7.13d 7.450	7.21A 9.700
ARAB PRARRACEUTICAL MAUTYACTERING	647,546	7.090	6.800	6.789
CORDAN CERANIC LEDUSTRIES JORDAN DAIRY	297,771 12,619	£.560 2.420	6.920 Z.300	7.010 2.330
JORDAN PRINTING & PACKING	1,954	5,100	5.100	5.003
THE JOSDAM PIPES MANUFACTURING JORDAM PAPER & CARDROAMS FACTORIES	64,245 :.503	3,570 4,2 5 0	3.57B 4.150	3.660 4. <i>0</i> 50
THE PUBLIC HIMING	22,645	3.060	3.040	3.100
ARAD CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES SPINNING & VEAVING	506,610	21.850 3.250	22.500 3.230	3.186
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	454,235 4,638	3.230 3.476	3.230	3.200
FORDAM GLASS INDUSTRIES	45, 399	0.716	6.708	0.700
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT ANAB DEVESTMENT & DISCRIPATIONAL TRACE	1,334,013 , 722,627	14.400 3.250	2.300	13.430 1.430
ARAS ALUMINTUM INDUSTRY	51,592	13.300	11,350	11.650
GENERAL INVESTMENT ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	22,858 41,666	3.250 2.130	3.230 2.140	3.379 2.120
JORDAN HEDICAL CORPORATION	3,650	0.570	0.570	0.532
MATICUAL STEEL IMPOSTRY MATICUAL INDUSTRIES	190,603		5.850 D.940	
UTTEO ZDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	469,061	4.170	4.170	4.700
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	702,690		5.850 2.880	
JORDAN ROCKHOOL INDUSTRIES UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	48,351 1,299,434	9.250	9.390	
ALADOLF IFOUSTRIES	2,250	4.500	4.500	4.500
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & HATCH/JINCO JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRE	41,483 100,378	1.24 <i>0</i> 0.620].270 G.619
JORDAY HOOP (MODSTRIES / JWICO	2,249	4.150	4.000	4.100
MATIONAL CABLE I WIRE MARKEPACTURING JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	2,187,843 139,858			
arab center for Phiarm. & Chercicals	516,161	4.240	4.360	4.250
JORDAN KINAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOCO PROD. KANTHER LIVESTMENT	403,964		2.0 6 0 3.600	
	-,			

1.130 2.740 0.480 3.150 2.940 0.710 CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE 1.770 GRAND TOTAL 450,262

Financial Markets

TOTAL

PARALLEL MARKET 1





4.500 4.360 2.060 3.600 5.300

ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (48/45/1993 - 12/45/1993)

Eurocurrency Interest Rates		Date: 13/5/1993			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH	
U.S. Dollar	2.93	3.06	3.10	3.37	
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.81	5.91	6.06	
Deutsche Mark	7.43	7.18	6.93	6.50	
Swiss Franc	5.06	4.93	4.75	4.43	
French Franc	7.87	7.50	7.12	6.81	
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.12	3.21	3.28	
European Currency Unit	8.12	7.93	7.68	7.37	

Distance not read and many	т-	-	

With Bank of Johnson tree	Date: 13/5/1993			
Currency .	Bid -	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890		
Sterting Pound	1.0526	1.0579		
Deutsche Mark	0.4264	0.4285		
Swiss Franc	0.4700	0.4724		
French Franc	0.1266	0.1272		
Japanese Yen*	0.6145	0.6176		
Dutch Guilder	0.3800	0.3819		
Swedish Krona	0.0928	0.0933		
Palian Lira*	0.0464	0.0466		
Belgian Franc	0.02072	0.02082-		

Other Currencies	Date: 15/5/1993			
Currency	Bld	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8000	1.8310		
Lebanese Lira*	0.03815	0.03940		
Sandi Riyal	0.1829	0.1839		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2800		
Qatari Riyaj	0_1860	0.1872		
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100		
Omani Riyal	1.7430	1.7870		
UAE Dirham	0.1860	0.1872		
Greek Drachma*	0.3165	0.3230		
Cypriot Pound	1.4220	1.4350		

Japanese cabinet approves 2.2 trillion yen extra budget draft

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese billion yen in other expenditures. cabinet Friday approved a 2.19 trillion yeu (\$19.6 billion) extra budget draft for the current fiscal year to back up a massive pumppriming package and financial aid to Russia, officials said.

The government hopes that the extra budget, to be submitted to the Diet Friday, will be passed by parliament during the current session, which ends June 20, the officials added.

If approved, the general account budget will be revised to 74.54 trillion yen, they said. The package includes 2.22 trillion yen for public investment, of which 1.2 trillion is allocated for general public works spending. It also provides for 100.5 billion yen in assistance to small and medium-sized firms, 41.1 billion ven in aid to Russia and 25.3

but cuts 200 billion yen from miscellaneous spending.

Of the new spending, the 2.2 trillion yen for public investment and the 100.5 billion yen in support for companies form part of the government's 13.2 trillion yen economic stimulus package, which includes a total 4.17 trillion yen for public works-related ex-

The 41.1 billion yen in assistance to Russia is mostly to cover the grant aid Japan pledged last month at a Group of Seven (G-7)

ministerial-level meeting.
To finance additional spending, the draft calls for issuing 2.25 trillion yen in construction bonds while cutting miscellaneous ex-penses by 200 billion yen in fiscal 1993, which began April 1.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.6070/80 1.8035/45 1.4520/30 33.05/07 S.4225/75 1480/1483

111.30/35 7.3540/640 6.8250/350 6.1840/940 \$1.5330/40 One ounce of gold \$366.60/676.20 Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese ven Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns

Canadian dollar

Palestinians suffer \$100m loss since Israel sealed off W. Bank, Gaza

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palesti-nian losses in the first month of an Israeli closure of the occupied territories reached nearly \$100 million, according to a study published Friday by a Palestinian

The indefinite closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip at end of the March, following a wave of attacks that left 15 Israelis dead, has forced nearly 120,000 Palestinians to lose their obs inside Israel:

advisor of the Palestinian peace team, evaluated the Palestinian revenue losses in the territories in April at \$66 million.

He estimated losses for Israeliannexed east Jerusalem at \$9

Mr. Shunar said that 30,000 inhabitants from the territories shopped daily in the Arab sector of the Old City before they were shut off.

and between Gaza and the West Bank, costing the Palestinians \$9 Shunar said in the report published by the daily Al Quds.

The sale of products from the territories to Israel was also seriously hampered adding another \$10.8 million worth of losses to the Palestinian ecoпошу.

He estimated losses from tour-The travel ban has also crip- ism and transport revenues at \$6 in Israel.

Palestinian earning . Is zi represent 50 per cent or the gross' million in losses last month, Mr. national product (G! ") in Gaza and 35 per cent of the GNP in the West Bank.

Before the closure 38 per Lar of the Palestinian work four from the territories, which to home to 1.8 million Palestinians, held jobs in Israel.

The government now authorises 38,000 Palestinians to work

U.S. Senate approves additional \$34.3 billion for thrift cleanup

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Senate Thursday approved an additional \$34.3 billion to help pay off depositors at failed savings and loans in an effort to close the books on the corruption-

plagued affair. But the bill approved on a 61-35 vote was \$10.7 billion less than requested by President Bill Clinton for the cleanup, and still requires approval by the House

The House is expected to take up its own version of the bill later this month.

A gap in funding for the Re-solution Trust Corporation (RTC), the congressionally chartered agency established to take over failed federally insured thrifts, has halted the cleanup for

Lawmakers last year rejected funding proposed by former President George Bush after reports bonuses paid to officers of the

"Let's keep our promise to the depositors," said Senator Christ-opher Bond, a Missouri Republican, "Let's get this resolved and get it behind us."

Senator Bob Kerry said the latest bill places limits on bonuses paid to agency executives and has

Massachusetts Democrat said. Both the Senate and House bills would provide the RTC with \$18.3 billion to clean up the backlog of 85 failed thrifts that are still operating and any others

'I will vote for the funds

needed to complete the cleanup of this sorry chapter in the financial history of our nation," the

If an eventual compromise bill is approved and all the money spent, it will push the total price of paying depositors at failed savings institutions to nearly \$200 billion. So far \$87 billion has been spent since the RTC was created in 1989, and another \$70 billion in bailout deals has been negotiated

Suzuki launches new car in India

NEW DELHI (R) - Japan's Suzuki has launched a new hatchback, one litre compact car in India which is intended largely for export - with western Europe as its principal target. R.C. Bhargava, head of Suzu-

ki's Indian partner Maruti Udyog Ltd., said it was the first time the Japanese company had launched a new car outside Japan and

to an Indian economy underground radical reform. Mr. Bhargava said India's

reputation for quality "has not been very high" in a formerly state-dominated economy where low labour costs were often offset low productivity.

70,000 cars made after the new

called the project a major boost production line came into full operation in 1995 would be exported.

He said the main target for the car, which has a new aluminium 993 ce, four-cylinder engine. would be western Europe and would sell for around \$7,000.

He said the western European He said that more than half the market for this class of car was about two milion a year.

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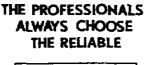
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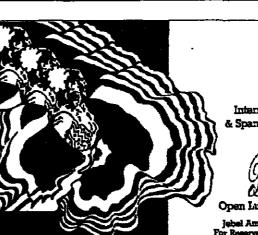
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Michael Jackson **Picks 3 awards**

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Michael Jackson picked up three world music awards during a ceremony full of royal presenters. Prince Caroline awarded Luciano Pavarotti with an award for best classical artist, while Prince Albert and his sister, Princess Stephanie, honoured Jacomson as best artist of his country, of the wear and of his era. Tina Turner was given the lifetime achievement award and Eric Clapton was chosen as best British artist and best rock artist.

invasion of pretty women causing a stir in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Beauty pageants are hardly alien to Mexico, where virtually every Pueblo crowns a beauty queen sometime during the year. But this year, the Miss Universe pageant, with all its glitter, has come to Mexico City, and the show has become a crowd-stopper. Everywhere the women go, they have capital residents talking. Many praise the contest, but others fear it promotes, women as sex objects among Mexico's legendary machos. Pastel pink and green buses have been darting around Mexico City for days and were spotted bearing contestants to a photo shoot at a luxury hotel. The Miss Universe pageant is the biggest beauty contest of them all, a competition for a crown, scholarship and prizes that has attracted more than 85 national beauty queens. The finals will be broadcast on May 21 to hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide. The contest is about bathing suit competitions, talent competitions and fashion competitions featuring national costumes and evening guns. And it's something Mexicans can very well relate to. Virtually every corner in fiesta-crazy Mexico crowns a beauty queen sometime during the year, whether it's a Veracruz — usually on strength of beauty, charm and poise. When more than 20 Miss Universe contestants showed up last week in one town, Zacatecas, 20,000 people appeared, strewing carnations at their feet.

U.S. reassigns **8 navy officers** on Tailhook

WASHINGTON (AP) - The navy had temporarily reassigned six senior-ranking officers to shore duty so they will be "readily available" to the admiral overseeing the service's disciplinary proceedings in the Tailhook incident. In a brief statement issued at the Pentagon, the navy said the action was taken at the request of Admiral J. Paul Reason, the three-star admiral in charge of following up on the Pentagon inspector general's report that recommended discipline for up to 140 officers in connection with the event. The six officers were not identified and the statement warned that the action does not nécessarily indicate that any particular disciplinary action would take place against them. The 'inspection general's report, issued last month, found that 83 women and seven men were sexdally assaulted at the 19981 Tailbook Aviators Convention in Las Vegas, and that dozens of officers lied in attempts to cover up their activities. The report also found a "long-term failure of leadership" had helped produce the atmosphere of "debauchery" at the convention. The Tailhook Organisation is named after the hook on the back of planes which enables them to land on aircraft

:Man convicted in condom rape trial

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A man who claimed a woman's request that he wear a condom demonstrated her consent was convicted of raping the woman, drawing cheers in the courtroom. The eight-woman, four-man jury deliberated about two hours before returning the verdict against Joel Valdez, 28. During the three-day trial, Valez argued that the woman agreed to have sex because she had asked him to use a condom. "She told me to do her favour. She told me to wear a condom, so I did," Valdez testined. "We were making love after that." But in sometimes tearful testimony, the 26-year-old woman said she pleaded with her kaife-wielding attacker to wear a condom to protect her from AIDS. "I knew there wasn't much I could do to prevent what was going to happen," she said. "I thought maybe I could protect myself from dying from AIDS. A Travis County Grand Jury in September declined to indict Mr. Valdez, sparking community protests from women's groups and the victim, who denied her request for a condom meant she consented to sex. A second grand jury indicted Mr. Valdez in October. Several gomen spectators in the courtroom cheered when the verdict was read. The victim, who also watched the verdict being read, cried. Mr. Valdez showed

Serb leaders meet in Belgrade as fighting rages around Brcko

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb leaders began a special meeting in Belgrade Friday to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Vance-Owen peace plan, as a new Serb offensive on Brcko in northern Bosnia posed a grave threat to the latest fragile cease-

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata meanwhile denounced "serious human rights violations" against Muslims in Croatian-controlled Bosnian zones, according to UNHCR spokesmen who said Croat forces were holding 2,000 people near Mostar in the south.

Major Barry Frewer, spokes-man for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, Friday described the Serb offensive on Brcko as an

'extremely serious" violation. He said fighting was continuing around Lipovac and southeast of Brcko, and added that UNPRO-FOR had "put forward a strong

In Belgrade a special joint neeting of the parliaments of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro and Serb officials from Bosnia and Croatia opened at midday after a two-hour delay. In a snub to Belgrade, the

self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament has refused to participate in the meeting, and plans to go ahead with a referendum this weekend on the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina. Deputies from the Croatian Serbs' "parliament" also refused to attend.

Only 370 deputies out of a predicted total of more than 700 are attending the meeting, which is merely consultative.

The U.N. has alerted to the

latest Serb attack on the Brcko area early Thursday by Croatian Defence Council (HVO) forces in the north, according to Maj. Frewer who described the battle as "an offensive."

"I don't know from where it came. I don't know what precipitated it. We do know that there has been fighting in the past few days up there. We do know that they are trying to secure that northern corridor, but I can't say any more about their intentions. Maj. Frewer said.

U.N. military observers based in Tuzla were sent to the Brcko



Smoke billows from several buildings in the centre of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP photo)

area and reported that the Serb attackers were using artillery, mortars and multiple rocket launchers. But they could not confirm Bosnian Muslim reports that the Serbs were using tanks.

The Serb aim would be to widen a corridor across northern Bosnia-Herzegovina linking the Serb-controlled area of Banja Luka, in the northwest, with Ser-

Sarajevo Radio said Serb forces launched a new infantry and artillery attack in the Brcko area early Friday, and that six were killed and 17 wounded on the Bosnian Muslim side since

Separate clashes between Bos-Croat and Muslim forces continued overnight and early Friday in the southern town of Mostar, but "at a reduced level." UNPROFOR reported.

A company of about 100 Span-ish U.N. troops moved into the town Thursday to help nail down a ceasefire negotiated by political leaders Monday, a day after the Croats attacked Muslim positions in Mostar.

Maj. Frewer said Friday each time the Spanish troops tried to approach the front line their vehicles were shot at. "We have already lost 40 tyres," he said. Sarajevo Radio said the commander of the Muslim-led Bosnian government forces, General Sefer Halilovic, went to Medjugorje south of Mostar in Croatheld territory Friday to hold talks with local Croat commanders. In Paris, Bosnian Foreign

Minister Haris Silajdzic strongly criticised European Community policy on Bosnia. "It's not neutrality but complicity," he said.

Speaking after talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, Mr. Silajdzic said 13 months of diplomatic activity had "resulted mostly in destruction and death in Bosnia.

Unfortunately the EC is now helping this totalitarian fascist system in Belgrade to either kill or expel," he added.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel urged Croatian President Franjo Tudiman Friday to rein in Croat forces attacking Muslims in Bosnia or risk jeopardising Western support for his

Mr. Kinkel met Mr. Tudjman on behalf of the 12-member European Community after it threatened Croatia - which seeks closer ties with the EC with punitive action unless Bosnian Croat aggression ceased. Zagreb has denied responsibility.

Danish polls predict Maastricht 'yes'

COPENHAGEN (R) - Two cent would say "no" - against a will be drowned in a union of 340 of the May 18 referendum on the European Community's (EC)

Maastricht Treaty.

A Gallup poll showed the "yes" lead widening, while a Greens Institute poll indicated the race was tightening in the run-up to Tuesday's vote on the landmark treaty on European political, economic and monetary

Danes rejected the treaty by a tiny 50.7-49-3 per cent majority last June, plunging the EC into turmoil. They have since won exemptions from key treaty aims including a common currency, joint defence policies and common citizenship rules.

The Gallup poll, in the daily Berlingske Tidende, showed that 50 per cent of voters would vote "ves" Tuesday and that 32 per ning not to vote.

But the Greens poll in the financial daily Boersen showed that the "yes" side had slid to 50 per cent from 53 in a poll a week ago and that the "no" had strengthened to 39 per cent from

It said that voters in all areas of Denmark would vote "yes" except for the northern part of the Jutland peninsula. Despite substantial opposition

among voters, seven of the eight parties in parliament, with 91 per cent of the votes at the last elections, want Danes to say "yes" to help revive economic growth and to avoid isolation for

Opponents say the treaty is undemocratic and that the views know before the votes are of Denmark's 5.2 million citizens counted."

Danish opinion poils Friday re-confirmed a big "yes" lead ahead Others were undecided or plan-Others were undecided or plan-"One result is certain on May

18. It will show that voters are out of step with politicians," said Hans Joergen Nielsen, an assistant professor of political science at Copenhagen University. Prime Minister Poul Nyrup

Rasmussen says he will not call a new election if the result is a

Ove Fich, the leader of the "yes" campaign for Mr. Rasmus-sen's Social Democratic Party, warned supporters against complacency despite the polls.
"I'm confident, but still we will

work hard because I'm sure that during the weekend there will be surprises, like a mistake by somebody or new secret documents, he told Reuters. "You never

U.S. declares end of Star Wars era

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Defence Secretary Les Aspin has declared the end of the Star Wars era, saying former President Ronald Reagan's vision of a space-based anti-missile shield is no longer needed.

The restructuring of the U.S. anti-missile research programme will abandon exotic projects such as using X-ray lasers for a space barrier against incoming missiles in favour of more mundane ground-based technology.
"We have a real need for ballis-

tic missile defence, but not the massive programme of spacebased weapons that Ronald Reagan envisioned," Mr. Aspin told a news conference.

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) - proposed by Mr. Reagan in March 1983 and dubbed "Star Wars" after the popular film --- will be renamed Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation, Mr. Aspin said.

The defence secretary will ask Congress for \$3.8 billion for the programme in 1994, a \$2.5-billion reduction from the proposal by former President George Bush. Some \$30 billion has been spent on the programme over the last decade, but its importance diminished and its emphasis has already been changed as a result breakup of the former Soviet

"These changes are possible because of the end of a battle that had raged in Washington for over a decade over the best way to avoid nuclear war," said Mr. Aspin. "The fate of Star Wars was sealed by the collapse of the

Mr. Aspin said the main aim of the new programme would be to develop a new generation of weapons capable of shooting down short-range ballistic missiles - with a range of 1,000 to 2,000 kilometres — such as the

A secondary priority will be technology for shooting down long-range ballistic missiles. Mr. Aspin said the technology for this would be ground-based, but did of the end of the cold war and the not indicate whether space sensors would be used. The experience of the Gulf

War brought home the message that a different type of system is needed, Mr. Aspin said. At the same time, he added that the possibility of a surprise attack from the former Soviet republics "has receded to the vanishing

Yeltsin looks to former Soviet neighbours for political allies

Boris Yeltsin hunted Friday for new political allies among Russia's ex-Soviet neighbours as his battle to crush a hostile conservative legislature at home moves into a decisive phase.

On Friday morning, he held Kremlin talks with Georgian leader Edouard Shevardnadze on resolving a bloody separatist conflict in the west Georgian region of Abkhazia. Georgia accuses Russia of helping the separatists.

In the afternoon, he took part in a summit of the Common-wealth of Independent States (CIS). The 10 leaders will discuss Mr. Yeltsin's March plan to radically revamp the CIS and halt

But a Ukrainian delegate suggested the most pressing reason for the summit, unexpectedly moved forward two weeks from its scheduled end-of-May date, was to give Mr. Yeltsin public backing from neighbours before a new round of his domestic battle.

Both Mr. Shevardnadze and Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba have said they expected little from the Georgian talks. Mr. Ardzinba Thursday rejected Mr. Shevardnadze's new proposal for Ukrainian peacekeepers to

patrol the rebel region. Several hundred people have been killed in almost nine months of fighting since Abkhazian separatists, with support from Russian irregulars, launched a struggle for more autonomy.

But the talks will serve an important purpose for Mr. Yeltsin. They will shed flattering light on the image he wants to present

MOSCOW (R) — President as a moderate peacemaker surrounded by aggressive conserva-

> Mr. Shervardnadze has said repeatedly he believes it is not Mr. Yeltsin, but Russian conservatives nostalgic for Soviet ways, who are helping the Abkhazian rebels on territory

which is no longer theirs. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Shevardnadze agreed Friday to call for a ceasefire in Abkhazia from May

Local news agencies quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as telling reporters after the Kremlin talks that the ceasefire would be followed by the withdrawal of heavy military equipment from the conflict zone and a ban on all flights in the region.

The two governments planned to sign a major treaty in mid-June including a package of bilateral agreements, Mr. Shevardnadze was quoted as saying.

He and other leaders of the

former Soviet republics strongly backed Mr. Yeltsin in Russia's April 25 referendum campaign. At home, Mr. Yeltsin is using his referendum win to move in for the kill against conservatives in parliament who have blocked the radical economic reforms he is

trying to bring in. Russia's parliament moved to ask the constitutional court to rule on whether Mr. Yeltsin was breaking the law in his current attempt to bypass the legislature and bring in a new constitution giving him more power and law-

Mr. Yeltsin has called an

perhaps adopt a new constitution without the lawmakers — whose job it is under the present con-

stitution. One of his key radical allies, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai, warned Friday that adopting a new constitution, or holding early elections to the parliament, was necessary if Russia were to avoid civil war.

But, in comments to the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta, he advanced a new possible compromise in the power struggle between president and parliament.

Instead of rushing through a constitution, he suggested, an ordinary law could be adopted to settle the power-sharing argument between the legislative and executive branches. A full constitution, which par-

liament has argued over for two years, could then be passed at eisure in the legislature's remaining two-year term.

Mr. Yeltsin got a boost from a

different quarter when the president of powerful Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Thursday threw his support behind the Russian leader's reform plan for the

Meanwhile a key Russian conservative leader backed Mr. Yeltsin's proposals for constitutional reform Friday, opening a split in the parliamentary opposition to the president.

Nikolai Ryabov, deputy to parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, made his declaration to parliament in an unscheduled speech. He said if deputies reject Mr. Yeltsin's plan for a

leaders on June 5, to draft and Constitutional Assembly they perhaps adopt a new constitution would pash society to confronta-

Mr. Ryabov has been a key ally of Mr. Khasbulatov through a long power struggle between the parliamentary chairman and the

Mr. Khasbulatov tried to interrupt Mr. Ryabov several times during his short address.

It is dangerous for the parliament to be dragged into anticonstitutional structures," Mr. Khasbulatov said at one point in a reference to the assembly, which Mr. Yeltsin is convening on June 5 to draft and, perhaps, to en-

dorse a constitution. Mr. Khasbulatov's intervention brought another longtime opponeut of Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms, Venyamin Sokolov, to his feet in Mr. Ryabov's support. "I would ask the chairman not to exert pressure on deputies," he

The Russian parliament decided Friday to ask the constitutional court to rule on the legality of President Yeltsin's attempt to bypass the legislature in bringing

a new constitution.
Russian Vice-Presient Alexander Rutskoi Friday said President Yeltsin's camp was trying to con-sign him to political oblivion, but he would not give up the fight

against them. Mr. Rutskoi, whom Mr. Yeitsin has stripped of his main posts, his official Mercedes limoussine and most of his staff and bodyguards, told the opposition daily Pravda he was spurned by Mr.

Yeltsin soon after victory over a

hardline coup in August 1991.

39 killed, 14 missing in S. African coal mine blast

SECUNDA, South Africa (R) ---Rescuers searched through choking smoke and dust Friday for 14 coal miners missing in an underground explosion which killed at

least 39. Hopes were fading that the missing would be found alive. A spokesman for the mine at Secunda, 120 kilometres east of Johannesburg, said specialised rescue teams had recovered 39 bodies by midday Friday, nearly 24 hours after the methane gas blast about 100 metres under-

Chances are very slight that anyone survived. We expect to recover more bodies as the teams go further into where the fire occurred," said Richard Hughes, okesman for the oil-f company Sasol Ltd.
Flags at the offices of the mine,

recipient this week of a National Safety Award, were at half-mast. The mood was sombre in Secunda, a mining town built up in the 1970s in the bleak, flat eastern Transvaal smog-belt.

Mr. Hughes said a government official had arrived at the scene to investigate the cause of the explosion at Middlebult, one of three underground workings making up the Secunda Collieries complex owned by Sasol. Unions said they were horrified

at the blast, which occurred the same day five mineworkers were killed in a rockfall at an Anglo American gold mine near Orkney, southwest of Johannes-

The unions said safety should be improved in South Africa's mines, where more than 600 men

Khmer Rouge leader: Poll leading to Cambodia war

BANGKOK (AFP) - Khmer ruled Cambodia from April 1975 Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, reiterating his group's total rejec-tion of Cambodia's U.N.organised election later this month, warned Friday it would provoke a resumption of war in the troubled South East Asian

Mr. Khieu Samphan went on the radical guerrilla group's clandestine radio to describe the May 23-28 polls as "a contemptible shadow play," aimed at legitimising the "Phnom Penh (government) puppets" of Vietnam.
"UNTAC's unfair election is in

no way to lead to peace in Kampuchea (Cambodia) but it has been arranged in such a way that it will rekindle the flames of war in Kampuchea" he said in a broadcast monitored here.

Mr. Khien Samphan, who is widely believed to be the faction's nominal leader acting on orders issued ultimately by shadowy former ruler Pol Pot, repeated Khmer Rouge accusations that Vietnamese forces were still deployed in Cambodia.

He called on all Cambodians to

"resolutely oppose this unfair and contemptible UNTAC election." UNTAC, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, has been mandated under Cambodia's 1991 peace treaty to lead the country to free and fair elections. Pol Pot and his lieutenants to January 1979, engineering a bloody socialist revolution in the small South East Asian country. At least one million people died by execution or from starvation of exhaustion in Cambodia's "killing fields" during Pol Pot's

reign of terror. They were toppled following an invasion by Vietnam's armed forces, which installed in Phnom Penh a government dominated by Khmer Rogue defectors.

In September 1989, Hanoi announced a full withdrawal of its expeditionary corps. But the Khmer Rouge, then the military backbone of a guerrilla coalition fighting Phnom Penh, rejected this, alleging Vietnamese troops remained in Cambodia.

Mr. Khieu Samphan's tough talk against the election parallels a statement earlier this week by a Phnom Penh leader, who said his government, if it wins in the polls, will resume its fight against the Khmer Rouge.
Foreign Minister Hor

Namhong told AFP: "We are prepared for combat because the partition of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge leaves us no other choice. The guerillas control militarily

about 10 per cent of Cambodia's territory and up to 500,000 of its nine million population, and are believed to have infiltrated most of the country.

Italians must fight mafia infiltration, Ciampi says ROME (Agencies) — Mafia infil-tration of the economy is under-Estimates by the central statis-

mining Italy and must be attacked by business leaders and civil servants, Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said Friday, launching a campaign against orga-He called on leaders in the

Italian economy, and people in the public administration, to fight against mafia infiltration of the economic and financial system. "The infiltration of organised crime" throughout the economy 'is undermining international confidence in our country," he told a congress on mafia activi-

sion of parliament in memory of Judges Giovanni Falcone and they were murdered by the mafia.

Mr. Ciampi, until recently the governor of the Bank of Italy, said that his appeal to Italians to reject the mafia has the first public stand of his new government and underlined the importance he gave to this "fundamental problem".

Italy had to tackle mafia infiltration sooner or later in order to retrieve credibility, and to head for healthy and lasting economic development which was free of any compromise with illegal

tical institute hold that the mafia's annual "business" activi-ties turnover about 26,000 billion lire (\$16 billion), "employ" about 170,000 people and consequently would rank as about the fifth-biggest company in Italy, the Il Sole 24 Ore newspaper has reported.

Mafia penetration of the financial world is believed to be growing and about 60 per cent of mafia income is believed to be invested in the Italian financial system. Mafia investment in other more traditional activities is be-

lieved to falling to about 17 per cent in property, 11 per cent in The conference had been orga- commerce and four per cent in

Meanwhile, the government of Mr. Ciampi has itself been drawn into the coun-Paolo Borsellino one year after try's corruption scandal only two weeks after its formation.

Environment Minister Valdo Spini, a former under-secretary at the Foreign Ministry, was told Thursday that he was being investigated for alleged offences involving Italy's aid to Albania, State Television reported.

Mr. Spini, a Socialist, was the first of Mr. Ciampi's ministers to be warned of suspected involvement in corruption. But no fewer than five ministers in the previous government were forced out by country's 15-month bribery scan-

Sanctuary concept approved by world whaling commission

KYOTO, Japan (AFP) — A resolution to endorse the concept of creating a Southern Ocean Sanctuary for whales was approved here Friday by the International

Whaling Commission (IWC).
"I think the result is a very good result. The problem is the form it takes," said Chile's IWC Commissioner Fernando Zegers, a co-sponsor of the resolution along with Brazil, Finland, Sweden, and Switzerland. The resolution was a watered-

down version of a stronger French proposal that would have actually established a southern Ocean Sanctuary, extending from Antarctica to 40 degrees south

The resolution was supported eight against and four absten-

It also "resolves to address

gical, geographical, management, financial and global environmental issues relating to such a sanctuary. IWC scientists will meet next

November in Australia in an inter-sessionary working group to deal with the issues. Pro-whaling nations Japan and Norway received backing for their rejection of the resolution

from the Carribean states of Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines as well as South Korea and the Solomon Islands. Supporting countries included

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Chile, Denmark, Finland France, Germany, India, Ireland, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, by a simple majority of 19 for, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United

States China, Russia, Seychelles and outstanding legal, political, ecolo-South Africa abstained.

U.K. tabloid press prints more royal bugging allegations

LONDON (Agencies) — A circulation war between the British tabloid newspapers, currently making the most of royal bugging allegations, continued Friday with a report that Duchess of York knew her home was bug-

Allegations that the security services routinely bugged the royal family first surfaced in transcripts published Wednesday and Thursday by the Sun and the Mirror.

The Sun Friday reported that the Duke and Duchess of York told close friends: "We know we have been bugged." The conversation has allegedly taped when Prince Andrew and his wife Sarah Ferguson, com-

monly known as "Fergie," were get rid of him. going through a rough patch in When Princes their six-year marriage. The transcript of a telephone

call, drawn from a forthcoming novel by a Sun photographer, shows the duchess keen to take a break to visit her mother in The Daily Express for its part reported that the now estranged

Prince and Princess of Wales had

their telephone conversations

bugged by the security services

after they started courting 12 years ago. In one taped call, made before the couple wed in 1981, they joke cause of Princess Diana's muchabout their future. Prince Charles suggests that in a few years' time
Princess Diana might be glad to

All the revelations come from books serialised by the papers.

When Princess Diana replies "never," Prince Charles responds ironically: "I will remind you of that in 10 years' time." The couple are now separated.

The paper, which draws its material from another book. The Tarnished Crown by royal watcher Anthony Holden, alleges the British security services have transcripts of intimate calls dating back to 1981. The rival Daily Mirror alleged

that Princess Diana's late father,

the eighth Earl Spencer, beat his

first wife, and may have been the reported eating disorders. All the revelations come from

MPs have called on the government to launch an inquiry into the alleged bugging by the secret services, but this has so far been resisted by ministers who have consistently denied that the security services are involved.

The British government ruled out an official inquiry into allegations that the secret service eavesdropped on a blazing row between Prince Charles and Princess Diana, leaving Britons asking "who bugged the royals?" Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke told parliament that, despite pressure from the opposition, an investigation into press allegations that MI5 was the cul-

"You really are a tabloid politician, unable to turn your attention to any serious criminal matters at all," Mr. Clarke scoffed Thursday in response to a demand by the opposition Labour Party's Tony Blair for an "urgent

investigation." The government and the media have denied bugging the royals, but, unless the transcript is a fake, someone must have recorded it. suggestions included a maverick in the intelligence services, royal staff or even the royals themselves.

On Friday, for the third day running, some newspapers ran reams of so-called royal exclusives while others pondered over

whether the tape was valid The editors involved insisted that their bugging allegations were true and not another skirmish in a circulation war among Britain's tabloid newspapers.

The Daily Mirror's royal writer, James Whitaker, said he would show in a new book that

the royals were bugged regularly. But Sir Teddy Taylor, a Conservative member of parliament, said: "I cannot understand why editors and staff... are not being interviewed by the police to discover who supplied, procured and planted these alleged tapes and bugging devices."

Other parliamentarians asked. if the transcript was made up, then who penned it and what was the intention."

The latest tape followed the so-called "squidgy" tape last August of a telephone chat between Princess Diana and a male friend about her loveless marriage and the "Camiliagate" tape two months later of a risque conversation between Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles.

In a letter to the Times, Lord Shawcross, a former attorneygeneral said: "The question is not whether MI5 or some other government agency was responsi-ble... but who is?"

He said bugging had quite clearly taken place and a conspiracy was probably involved, "The home secretary should dither no more."

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whether the moon was made of

2nd Division Basketball Championship

First round ends today

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The first round of the 1993 Second Division Basketball Championship, orga-nised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF), comes to an end Saturday when former First Division teams, Homentmen and Al Abbasi, fight it out in a much awaited match by fans of both teams.

Nine teams are competing in the championship which is being played on a two-round basis. The top four teams will play a title-deciding second round at the Sports Palace Court starting Monday.

This season only the first place winner will be promoted to the First Division in 1994, while the last two teams in the overall standings — Al Mafraq and Anjarah — will be relegated to the Third Division.

Homentmen and Abbasi have already qualified for the second round after maintaining unbeaten records until now Gazzet Hashem and Yarmouk

Amman also qualified.

Al Karak were in competitive form and gave Al Abbasi a hard time before the latter scored a 4-point victory of 68-64. However they later seemed

to lose their momentum when Abu Nusair, a new team in the competition, scored a surprising victory defeating Al Karak at their home court 72-65. Abu Nusair lost hope of securing a second round qualifying berth after losing to Gazzet Hashem

The Abbasi-Homentmen match, which was due to be played Monday May 10, had been postponed after Al Abbasi objected to the outmoded and tilted, improper basketball board and ring at the JBF

Both Homentmen and Al

Abbasi seem to be the only two teams capable of returning to the First Division. However, the JBFs new regulations for the 1993 competitions - stating the promotion of only one team - mean both teams will give it all they have in the second round to secure the championship title.

Homentmen had scored impressive victories of 91-21 over Al Mafraq, 70-38 over Yarmouk Amman, and 83-37 over Al Husun. Al Abbasi on the other hand, beat Abu Nusair 73-48, Al Karak 68-64 and Gazzet Hashem 69-41.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Homentmen	7	7		550	251	14
Abbasi	7	7	_	455	264	14
Gazzet Hashem	8	6	2	490	405	14
Yarmouk Amman	8	4	4	457	428	12
Abu Nusair	8	4	4	478	439	12
Karak	8	3	5	525	427	11
Husun	Ř	2	6	304	523	10
Mafrag x	. 8	ī	7	305	584	9
Anjarah 🖈	8	Ī	7	410	502	8

- ☆ Homentmen-Abbasi have a postponed match
- * Relegated to third division

Becker's flaws exposed by Chesnokov

ROME (R) - Russian Andrei Chesnokov gave Boris Becker a lesson in clay court tennis Thursday when he dumped the thirdseeded German out of the \$1.75 million Italian Open.

But Becker showed continued signs of improvement in the clay court game and later described the tournament as his best event on the slow surface this year.

Chesnokov, who was asked to enter the tournament only last Sunday after Andre Agassi's late withdrawal, won a 2½-hour epic 6-2, 3-6, 7-6. He displayed the form which

took him to the final in Hamburg against Michael Stich last-week and his quarter-final against sixth seed Michael Chang Friday will be his 10th match in 11 days. Becker, who had plastered over the cracks in his game with

convincing wins in the first two rounds, blamed an errant forehand and an inspired opponent for his defeat. "He's an excellent player on

this surface and he kept the ball deep on all the important points," Becker said.

"I moved well and played good volleys but I don't remember when I played forehands like that, ever.

The three-times Wimbledon champion had two break points in each of the seventh and 11th games in the final set, but smashed forehands long or wide each time.

"Right now I feel disappointed with the result but later I'll realise



A defeated Boris Becker gestures after surprisingly losing his match to Russian Andrei Chesnokov at the Italian Open (AFP photo)

that this was my best clay-court tournament this year," he said. Becker was leading the first set 2-1 when England and Lazio soc-

cer star Paul Gascoigne arrived in his VIP box to a raucous reception. The match was held up for almost a minute until the cheering booing from rival fans died

Becker lost the next five games in a row to surrender the set 6-2. "It didn't affect me — that sort thing has happened before when famous actors and celebri-

ties have arrived," he said. Chesnokov, world-ranked 33rd, said he felt drained by his recent schedule but was perfectly calm during the final set tie-break

which he won 7-3. "It wasn't Boris's best game," Chesnokov said. "He missed a lot of shots but Boris is Boris and is

always an adversary to fear." Earlier, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia beat his close friend and sometimes-doubles partner, Swiss Marc Rosset, 6-4, 6-3 to

move into the last eight. Ivanisevic meets Uruguayan

Ivan Lendl in the first round, in the quarter-finals. Th Croatian and number one seed Pete Sampras are the only seeded players left in the top half of the draw and one of them seems certain to contest Sunday's

Marcelo Filippini, conqueror of

ing Swede Christian Bergstrom 6-1, 6-4 in the night match and was to meet Argentine Guillermo Perez-Roldan in a quarter-final Friday evening.

Sampras and seventh-seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain, who beat Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, are the only two quarterfinalists not to drop a set.

Second seed Jim Courier was unhappy with his form in a 6-3, 6-3 win over 16th-seeded Frenchman Fabrice Santoro and headed straight for the practice courts afterwards. Masur celebrates 30th birthday

with three-set victory: In Cora Springs, Florida, top-seeded Wally Masur of Australia had an on-court birthday bash on Thursday as he beat Gilbert Schaller of Austria 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round of the America's Red Clay Tennis Championship.



Bahrain striker Khamis Eld (right) and Lebanese defender Ibrahim Hosni duel for the ball during their World Cup qualifying match (AFP

Lebanon fail to score win; South Korea keep lead

BEIRUT (R) — Winless Lebanon and Bahrain battled to a goaless draw in their Group D match in Beirut to leave both well behind South Korea and Hong Kong, in their World Cup qualifying matches in Beirut.

Bahrain had most of the ball during the match but failed to transform their superiority into goals and had very few clear-cut

Lebanon, urged on by a partisan crowd of 13,000 relied on counter-attacks and strikes Fadi Allouch and Wael Nazha both

Lebanon have now completed their group matches and the first leg will be completed Saturday with a top-of-the-table clash between South Korea and Hong Kong while Bahrain play India. Lebanon's coach Berjaoui said he was not disappointed his team had not won a single game on home soil but added: "We still hope to improve in the second round of matches in South Korea

Mansell gets to grips with Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Formula One World Champion Nigel Mansell overcame his amazement and continued to improve Thursday on his second day of driving at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The Englishman clocked 224.372 mph (361.081 km/h) on his best lap on the 2.5 mile (4 km) oval, and had several laps above 220 mph. Mansell, who jumped to IndyCar racing this season and promptly

won his first race, admitted the circuit was intimidating.
"I've tried to come with an open mind to Indianapolis," he said. "It's very difficult because even from the air at about 5,000 feet when you fly about five miles away, you can see it.
"It is a very daunting, and, in your language, a very awesome

place," he told American journalists asking his impression of the

"The facility here, I've never seen anything like it. I think all the Englishmen here, all the European press which have come across, will agree with me that there's nothing as mighty as it in the world," he said.

"The thing that goes through your mind at this circuit is to pay attention, to pay very serious attention," he added. "I've never been used to entering corners at these kinds of speeds anywhere. The quickest corner we'll ever have in Grand Prix racing is 190 (mph -



trophy after Parma defeated Royal Antwerp of Belgium 3-1 (AFP photo)

Al Maidan Basketball Tournament

Ahli defeat Orthodoxi 90-71 to clinch title

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Ahli Friday clinched Al Maidan basketball tournament's trophy with an impressive 90-71 win over all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi.

The match, played at the Sports Palace court and attended by Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat and around 3,000 basketball fans, was a clear indicator that Al Ahli are well on their way to capturing the Jordanian basketball championship title which, for the past decade, has been mono-polised by Al Orthodoxi. Al Orthodoxi only led at 9-8

in the first minutes of the match. From then on, Al Ahli tightened their defence, se-cured defensive rebounding and gradually began to expand the gap 17-11 and 23-13. Two consecutive three-pointers by Yousef Zaghloul gave Al Ahli a 29-20 lead.

Al Orthodoxi scored through Amjad Al Tanbour and Murad Barakat but could not catch up, as another three-pointer by Naser Bushnaq and a score by Walid Badran ended the first half 40-29.

Al Ahli, whose coach has effectively changed their style and which depends mainly on a





Al Ahli's three-pointer expert Marwan Ma'tong

rotating lineup of players, continued to score by Marwan Ma'touq and Badran who gave their team a 49-38 lead before teammate Mohammad Al Shamali scored six consecutive

Al Orthodoxi, mainly depending on the Barakat brothers, Murad and Hilat. seemed helpless as their coach and captain Murad Barakat tried to guide his team and abort his opponents schemes. Ziad Al Nabulsi and Tanbour scored as Al Ahli still led 60-51

with 11 minutes remaining.

Meanwhile, Al Orthodoxi's players were hampered by many fouls, which in their case was a heavy disadvantage, as the team seemed to lack effective substitutes and primarily depended on the experience of their elder players.

Al Ahli intercepted many loose balls and converted them to fast attacks which secured their win by expanding the lead from 68-57 to 78-57 after a three-pointer by Zaghloul with five minutes remaining.

At Orthodoxi scored by Tanbour, Nabulsi and Jan Sahlieh and tried to apply a fullcourt defence. But it was aiready too late, as Al Ahli, supported by hundreds of chanting fans, celebrated their win and continued to score by, Murqus and Ma'touq, the three-point star of Al Ahli and the tournament.
Al Ahli led 90-69 before a

last minute score by Al Orthodoxi ended the match 90-71.

Bulls crush Cavaliers

CHICAGO (AP) — Horace Grant scored 20 points and Scot-tie Pippen 19 as Michael Jordan, nursing an injured wrist, turned things over to his "supporting cast" Thursday night in the Chi-cago Bulls' 104-85 victory over the visiting Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jordan, who shot his last free throw of the third period lefthanded and sat out the fourth quarter because of a slightly sprained right wrist, had 18 points as the Bulls took a 2-0 lead in a best-of-7 Eastern Conference playoff series. The scene shifts to the Rich-

field Collseum for games Saturday and Monday. If a fifth is needed, the series would return to Chicago stadium next Wednesday night.

points for the Bulls. The Cavaliers were led by Larry Nance with 16. Craig Ehlo had 15 and Mark Price 13.

Sums 109, Spurs 103

Charles Barkley's personal shoot-around paid off in Phoenix. After hitting 5 of 21 shots in the first game of the San Antonio-Phoenix Western Conference semifinal, Barkley spent 20 mi-nutes on the Suns' practice court. The results of the extra work

showed Thursday night. He made 12 of 18 shots in a 35-point performance which sparked a 109-103 victory and sent the Suns on to San Antonio with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 series.

Barkley sat out the first 81/2 minutes of the fourth quarter, and the Suns opened a 94-78 lead without him.

President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch waves to the media as he arrived at Sydney Airport Friday. Samaranch will inspect Sydney's facilities in its bid to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000 (AFP photo)

IOC praises Sydney's 2000 Olympic bid

ledging that its bid to host the 2000 Olympics games may be hard to beat.

Sydney is competing against Beijing, Manchester, Istanbul, Berlin and Brasilia for the right to stage the games.
The IOC will decide its choice

in Monaco Sept. 23. "If you ask me what is my impression ... I have to say that, as president of the IOC, all the six bidders are on the same start-

"But after the start, maybe (one of them) will be faster than the others. And I think that the Sydney bid could be, and will be,

very fast."

ing line," Samaranch told a civic

SYDNEY (AP) — IOC President and most populous city will in-Juan Antonio Samaranch began a clude meeting Prime Minister also inspect existing facilities as well as those under construction.

Samaranch will view the proposed main site of the games by helicopter. The visit follows a similar tony by Samaranch in Beijing, which is

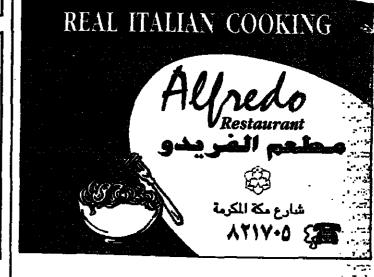
regarded by Sydney's bid organicers as its main rival. Sydney bid chief Rod McGeogh said Samaranch's vist which ends Sunday, will be "low-key," compared with the points and ceremony he received in China, where he was also guest of honour at an elaborate opening of the East Asian Games in Ship-

ghai earlier this week. Beijing's bid has been criticised in the Australian media because of China's human rights retirid

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GOREN BRIDGE

NORTH 4 A 7 5 2

4 K 6 3 The bidding: South West

Opening lead: Four of 4
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North's raise to game was optimistic by any standards. With a flat

hand and little in the way of inter-

Cinema

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass Pass Pass

CHECK YOUR ENTRIES

mediate cards to give the hand body, a raise to two no trump would have been ample by our standards. West led a low spade, dummy's three was played and when East produced the ace, declarer could count six fast tricks. The obvious place to find the three others was in

diamonds, provided the king was well placed. However, to land four tricks in diamonds declarer might need to finesse three times. Finding

East with the king singleton, doub leton or tripleton was not an odds on prospect. Two entries were in dummy in the rounded-suit aces. From where was the third going to come? Uncovering the problem made the solution easy to spot. Declare dropped the king of spades under the ace! Dummy's J 10 of spades

assured another entry regardless of

which defender held the queen. East could do no better than con tinue with spades. With the diamond king favorably located, declarer had no trouble raking in nine tricks. And it was all done without mirrors-or even computers.

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Early Elvis

guitar to go on

sale in London

LONDON (R) - One of Elvis

Presley's first guitars was ex-

pected to fetch more than £100,000 (\$150,000) at an auction

on London Friday, auctioneers

Christie's said. A spokesman for the firm said the D-18 Martin

acoustic guitar had extensive

documentation to prove it was

used by Presley on many of his

earliest recordings, including

That's All Right Mama in 1954.

In 1956, just after he left the Sun Record label for RCA, he traded

in the guitar at the OK Houck Piano Company in Memphis and

a fan bought it and kept it for 35

years. It was displayed at the

Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville until 1991. It was then

bought at auction by a British

collector. Christie's is billing it as

"the guitar which turned Elvis

Presley into the king of rock and

roll." The instrument is the star

lot at a sale that also features a

floppy hat and boots owned by John Lennon and other Beatles

items, a collectionof James

Brown memorabilis and a full set

of stage costumes worm by 1970s.

heavy metal band Kiss. U.S. au-

ctioneers Odyssey Auctions said

that several collections of rare or

unreleased Presley recordings

would be sold by Joe Esposito, a

former associate of the singer, in

Beverly Hills, California, this Sunday. They feature 30 songs

including Johnny B. Goode, That's All Right Mama, I Got a

Columbia Pictures

LONDON (R) - One of Holly-

wood's biggest tilm makers is

working on a disaster movie ab-

out the channel tunnel linking

Britain and France before it has

even opened, to the dismay of the

tunnel's operators. In Los

Angeles, Columbia Pictures con-

firmed it had signed up double

oscar winning actress Jodie Fos-,

ter for the film. A Columbia

spokeswoman in London said

Tuesday a tunnel disaster movie

provisionally titled Trackdown

was "a project in development,"

may not become a movie. During

my years in the film business I've

seen more projects fail than make

it to the screen," she added. The

engineer who tries to prevent a

train disaster in the undersea rail

link between southeast England

and northeastern France. The

script was written by two uni-

versity students. Eurotunnel, the

company that will operate the

tunnel due to open next year, said

it had not been approached about the film. "Bad publicity like this

could be extremely damaging.

We are hoping to be open by this

time next year and we are trying

lead character is Trackdown is an 🐐

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i: \p

750 Sep.

Woman and Memories.

ponders tunnel

disaster film

CIS wants 'economic union'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Com-monwealth leaders signed a dec-laration Friday stating support for an "economic union" among the former Soviet republics, taking a step towards closer cooperation after a year of squabbling.

Nine of the 10 leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) signed the declara-tion at the end of a one-day summit meeting in Moscow. The only member abstaining was Turkmenistan, which has balked

"These are serious questions which concern the sovereignty of ail nations," Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the leaders during a speech. "But if (you're) serious about economic integration, all this is necessary."

Although the economic union won support of most CIS leaders, it still could be ignored or gutted in the coming months, as other agreements have been. The declaration Friday only states an "intention" to set up an economic union and orders officials to draw up documents by July.

Mr. Yeltsin said economic union would require serious commitments from member states.

"Economic union is unthinkable without an agreed strategy of economic reforms, without coordinating economic policy. Russia is ready to create a currency union as an indivisible part of an economic union," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said work should be speeded up to create an interstate bank, as agreed at an earlier summit, and called for the setting up of a customs union. The latter would require coordinated price policies between member states.

It was not immediately clear what other leaders thought of these proposals. Effective cooperation between the 10 former Soviet republics that make up the CIS has been hampered since its inception in 1991 constant squabbling over policy.

Nonetheless, the document was the most hopeful sign in months for the future of the Commonwealth, which has been hobbled by infighting and empty promises since it was founded in December 1991 as the successor to the Soviet Union.

Russia's blueprints for the economic union included unified customs agencies, a banking union to organise a joint monetary system and oversee financial and credit

policy, a foreign trade union and steps to coordinate national leg-

Mr. Yeltsin told his counterparts Friday that each member of the economic union would have to implement a concrete privatisation plan. He said members also would have to settle debts to

Earlier Friday, the Russian president acknowledged concerns about the commonwealth's future. But he argued that "almost all (commonwealth) countries now support closer forms of economy, cooperation and economic

Mr. Yeltsin claimed the realisation was "a kind of turning point in the life of our commonwealth.

Mr. Yeltsin said commonwealth members must be ready to create "a unified economic space, unified economic norms and coordination of our actions," including a stronger collective security system.

"An economic union in the modern sense of the word is impossible without close cooperation in other fields, Mr. Yeltsin



Nenilly-sur-Seine Thursday. The man, who was

HOSTAGE DRAMA: A young boy is carried by his demanding 100 million French francs (\$18.5 milgrandfather after being released by a hooded from so ransom, released 11 children by sundown gunman who took some 30 children hostage at a kindergarten in the western Paris suburb of (AFP photo)

Algeria will return to democracy — minister

By Saad Silawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Algerian Minister of National Education Ahmad Jabbar has reaffirmed his government's intention to restore democratic life in the country.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Mr. Jabbar noted that Algerian Head of State Ali Kafi had announced a series of political measures on the road of restoring democracy.

"The measures include the broadening of the national consultative council and a public referendum on the form of goverament in preparation for the gradual restoration of democratic life," Mr. Jabbar said.

(Continued from page 1)

society to be represented in the

House and is not aiming for

imposing its political program-

"The application of Islamic

Sharia cannot be implemented

through the House or through

the government. It requires a

comprehensive and gradual so-

cial change that will take time to occur," he said.

pleted, society will change it-

self by itself and adopt the

(Continued from page 1)

"We are not interested in the

five-word formula, we are in-

terested in the five-line elabora-

tion of what it is that enters into

the Syrian definition of peace."

Israel and Lebanon also appear

to have reached an impasse, hav-

ing presented each other with

documents but failing to resolve

their essential difference: Leba-

non wants Israel to withdraw

unconditionally from a region of

southern Lebanon it has held

since 1982. Israel wants to keep

its soldiers there until it can work

out an arrangement with Leba-

more concrete than peace."

tenets of Islam."

he said.

"When that process is com-

The choices for electoral reform

Jordan reports no progress

border.

The minister stressed that the situation in Algeria was "improving on all fronts, particularly on the security front.

"Dialogue between the government and the Algerian political parties, including the opposition, has succeeded in its initial stage." he said, voicing hope that the second round of dialogue will be launched in the next two weeks.

The dialogue followed a wave of violence which erupted in 1992 in different parts of Algeria after the cancellation of the legislative elections and the announcement by the dominant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which maintains close relations with Iran, that it was planning to change the country's constitution.

This argument, according to

some analysts, is rendered

questionable by the many

attempts by the Brotherhood

deputies to amend laws in

accordance with Islamic Sharia, such as amending the youth

law to segregate sexes at sports

clubs, the push for segregating

schools and banning alcohol,

Even though the Brother-

bood believes that there is a

need for changing some provi-

sions in the Election Law to

ensure fair representation of

all sectors of society, Dr. Sa'id

said, the mechanism of change

non that would ensure the area is

not used by guerrilias to launch

the attacks against its northern

that if Israeli was serious about a

Middle East settlement based on

"land for peace," it could make a

Chief Lebanese negotiator

Soheil Chamas told a news con-

ference: "If we're serious about

this peace process we think a

testing ground could be Lebanon.

tion of withdrawal first would

augur well," he said.

"An Israeli action and the ac-

tiral withdrawal from South

Lebanon suggested Thursday

among other things.

The FIS won the majority of votes in the elections benefitting from the mosques pulpits which it used to attack the government and its failure to remedy the economic situation and address

foreign debts. After the elections, the FIS announced its plans to change the constitution of the country saying that the Koran was the country's constitution. The FIS also said it was the party of God while all other parties were evil.

It claimed that democracy was futile Western act of infidelity. Those announcements prompted Khalid Nizar, minister of defence, to order the armed forces to take to the street and arrest leaders of the front, includ-

should be constitutional.

That, he added, could only

be done through a permanent

law that would be endorsed by

Parliament. Changing the law

tutional by the Brotherhood.

would be a blow to the whole

"There are faults in the

(Election) Law and we want to

redress theme But that should

not be done through the

issuance of a temporary law."

A mechanism for change

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian spokeswoman

Hanan Ashrawi said Friday the

U.S. intervention into the peace

talks was plotted in advance with

Israel and "sprung on us a bit

With the talks now adjourned,

Dr. Ashrawi mixed criticisms of

the United States and of Israel at

a news conference in which she

described the talks as "a let-

down." She said Arab foreign

ministers would decide soon

whether to continue the negotia-

tions, which were begun in Octo-

late.'

Palestinians reject American proposal

that seems to be winning

Sa'id insisted.

Balhaj, both extremist fundamentalists who maintain close relations with Iran.

The chain of events forced President Chadli Benjedid to resign his post, thus giving the army and the then Prime Minister Sayyed Ahmad Ghozali a justification to accuse him of collaborating with the Islamists and to assume power in the country.

President Benjedid was placed under house arrest in his hometown of Wahran, the second biggest city in Algeria. One of the revolution's veteran leaders, Ahmad Boudiaf, who was exiled for 25 years because of his liberal ideas, was called to assume power. But Mr. Boudif was assassinated by one of his bodyguards last

ing Abbas Madani and Ali year.

favour with the majority of Jordan's political groups is the formation of a special committee representing all shades of Jordan's political spectrum and entrusting it with the process.

through a temporary law would be considered unconsti-But the Brotherhood, says Dr. Sa'id, rejects this mechanism because there will be questions on who decides on its law outside of Parliament membership and guarantees that all groups are fairly repredemocratic process, a naked sented in it. aggression on the House," Dr.

Only through the House would electoral reform be accepted by the Brotherhood, be continued.

"Despite the shortcomings of the Lower House, it is the most suitable place for discussing the change."

The talks did not produce agreement on limited self-rule for

the Palestinians who live on the

Israeli-beld West Bank and in

Gaza. Nor did Israel and three

Arab states, Syria, Lebanon and

Jordan, come to terms over their

attempt by the State Department

to reconcile differences between

Israel and the Palestinians on a

"statement of principles" to gov-

The Palestinians did not show

up for the session Wednesday

night. "It was sprung on us a bit

ern future negotiations.

late," Dr. Ashrawi said.

The round was marked by an

conflicts.

Beirut meeting urges Arab focus on Asia and Africa

By Khalil Abdul Salam Special to the Jordan Times

BEIRUT - A three-day pan-Arab conference concluded here Thursday with a call on Arab countries to seek better relations with their neighbouring countries, particularly Iran. Turkey and Ethiopia.

The conference recommended that more attention be paid to the African countries and to the Islamic states of Asia, which together form the "strategic depth" of the entire Arab Nation.

The conference stressed that the Palestine question was the crux of conflict in the Middle East, and said American policy towards the Palestine question was still based on the traditional concept of domination.

The conference noted with regret the failure of the United Nations Security Council to implement its Resolution 799 on the Palestinian expellees stranded in Lebanon and other resolutions on the Palestine question.

The final communique of the conference discussed the latest developments of the Middle East peace process and noted that the Arab-İsraeli talks underway deal only with the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and completely ignores the Arab territory of Palestine occupied in

According to the communique. the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242 as a bssis for Arab-Israeli talks, "in isolation of international resolutions on the issue," has made the peace process "baseless." It also asserted that the talks were now taking place outside the framework of the United Nations and thus they had no legally binding authority. The communique criticised the

pan-Arab position. The conference said a proposal for a new Middle East order had been carefully planned by Western and American research institutions which give Zionist Jews a special role to play in formulating an integrated project covering financial, economic, population, environmental, educational and security aspects.

Arabs for failing to crystallise a

"The proposed order has been broadened to include interna-

tionally Central Asian countries with a view to achieving a Western strategy aimed at placing heavier financial burdens on Arab financial institutions," it

The conference called on all Arab countries to resist this project and condemned the steps by some Arab countries to study the project and pave the ground for its implementation.

The conference called on all Arab intellectuals to "expose" the project and to asist Arab countries to devise the right means to counter it.

On democratisation and human rights, the conference noted the grave violations of human rights and public freedom in the Arab World and called for putting an end to such violations. It also called for ensuring public freedoms and the freedom of press, expression and opinion.

The conference voiced concern over the failure by Arab countries to ensure pan-Arab security and ing pan-Arab security projects and for supporting Arab military

The communique voiced the conferees' concern over the deteriorating situation in Iraq as a result of the continuing international sanctions on that country. It called on all Arab and Islamic countries to shoulder their "full responsibility" towards the Iraqi people and to lift "this unjustifiable embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

The conference condemned the continued air embargo on Libya saying that the use by the United States and its allies of "international legitimacy as an umbrella to put more pressure on Arab countries is a flagrant violation of national sovereignty and an expression of the double standards followed by the U.S. and its

The conference noted with "deep regret the deteriorating situation in Somalia caused by the civil strife and tribal fighting and called on all Arab countries and intellectuals to exert every possible effort to achieve reconciliation among the warring parties in the country.

Fighting rages in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) - Afghan troops engaged guerrilla foes in street battles and artillery exchanges that forced Kabul's airport and mosques to close Friday, and hospitals reported hundreds more casualties.

Streets were deserted as the fighting edged closer to the centre of the city from the main battlefront in the western suburbs, a sign that government forces may be falling back under a fierce rocket and artillery onslaught.

The fierce fighting that has caused more than 1,000 casualties in two days died down overnight only to resume soon after dawn

Heavy artillery fire thundered across the shell-shattered capital and machinegun fire echoed in

empty streets. One hospital admitted 140 iujured and 15 dead Friday. State-run Kabul Radio re-

ported 54 deaths, many of them of women and children, on Thursday and 72 the day before. Doctors said the toll was certainly much higher, because few of the dead and few injured women are brought to hospitals,
About 1,000 people have been

wounded in two days of the fiercest battles since the fractious guerrilla leaders of the Islamic coalition government signed a peace pact in Pakistan in March to end months of fighting.

Mosques were closed on the weekly holy day for prayers, and bazaars were shut.

"The airport has been closed for security reasons," said an officer patrolling near the shell-pocked runway. Bullets and rock-ets screamed overhead but it was unclear which of the various rival parties were involved.

Civilians continued to bear the brant of the fighting between government troops under Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masond and two opposed fac-

The battle began three days ago with the capture of Dehmazang Square in southern Kabul. which came under a punishing rocket bombardment early Fri-

"More than 300 rockets have landed on us by my count," said one shell-shocked resident.

Even as the area burst with rocket explosions an elderly man and his son vainly tried to subdue the flames in three demolished houses by throwing bricks into the ruins, while a lone women bent with age struggled to hand-pump water into buckets

from a public well. The Hezb-e-Islami headed by ethnic Pashtun leader Gulbuddin Hekmatvar sent several rockets onto the airport from missile batteries outside the city, forcing civilian flights to divert to the northern ,city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mr. Masoud has been trying to prise fighters of the Iranianbacked Hezb-e-Wahdat from their firmly entrenched positions in the south of the capital. Wahdat have joined sides with Mr. Hekmatyar's group in the fratricidal battles that have devastated Kabul.

Government troops have been bogged down in the south of Kabul after launching an attack against forces of two factions who have been maintaining a blockade of the city.

Mr. Masoud's tanks cleared several bunkers of fighters from the Wahdat but his forces came under fierce attack from the

to invite people to have faith in the tunnel and how it will work," said a Eurommel spokeswoman. German farm rents out world's first

cockerel alarm

BERLIN (AFP) - A Berlin smallholder has launched the world's first rent-a-cockerel service, in which stay-a-beds can rent out a caged cock to wake them up in the morning, Bild Zeitung reported. The "ecoalamrs" range from two-year-old Hansi, a dwarf cockerel with a dulicet tenor, to one-year-old Radauchen, a feisty German country cock whose ear-busting shrick "is enough to get the deepest sleeper off the mattress," the paper said. For those who like a lie-in, Paule, a three-year-old cochin cock from Japan, is a good bet. He utters a little peep at four o'clock and then cries only once every 30 minutes, says Eddi Rasmussen, 52, who came up with

Japanese travellers spend record \$35b abroad in 1992

TOKYO (AFP) — An all-time high number of Japanese spent a record \$35.4 billion on their overseas trips in 1992, the government's annual report on tourism said. The number of Japanese tourists who visited foreign countries, 11 million, was up 1.16 million from 1991, when overseas travel fell for the first time in 11 years due to the Gulf war. The most favoured destination among Japanese travellers was the United States with 3.77 million, followed by South Korea with 1.4 million and Hong Kong with 1,32 million, the report said. Meanwhile, the number of foreign travellers to Japan also marked an all-time high of 3.58 million, up 50,000. The largest group of foreign visitors to Japan was from neighbouring South Korea with 860,000, followed by 715,000

Speculators refuse to give up hopes on Iraqi 'Swiss' notes "The question remains

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Speculators are continuing to buy up invalidated Iraqi currency in the Jordanian market with hopes that the door has not been fully slammed against realising good profits.

Dealers said the buyers were betting on their connections either in Baghdad or in Kurdish-controlled territory in northern Iraq to convert the 25-dinar Iraqi "Swiss notes." which were withdrawn from circulation by the Iraqi government last week.

At least 25 million Iraqi dinars in the Swiss notes changed hands in the Jordanian market at around 475 to every 100,000 Iraqi dinars since Monday, the deadline set by Baghdad for the exchange of the currency in state-run banks within the country, market sources said. A six-day border closure supported by increased fron-

tier patrols to check smuggling had deprived speculators of the chance to take advantage of the exchange arrangement.

By all estimates, Jordanians held between two and five per cent of the "Swiss" notes in circulation - believed to have been of a total volume of 25 billion Iraqi dinars, with the bulk of it in the hands of dealers and governments in the Gulf states.

"Apparently some speculators in Jordan are hoping that they could use their connections with high places in Iraq to help them exchange the Swiss notes and hence the buying spree since Monday," said a dealer, who preferred anonym-

"At least that is what is being said in town, although no one seems to know anything more than that," the dealer

Suggestions in the market that the Iraqi embassy in Amman was involved in the operation were flatly denied by the

"At no point in time was the embassy buying Iraqi currency or cooperating with anyone who did," said a senior official at the embassy in exchange for

anonymity. "It is not our business to do so." The Iraqi government has been cool to a Jordanian request that Jordanians be compensated for their losses

caused by the withdrawal of

the once-premium-priced "Swiss notes." But efforts to get the Iraqis to compensate Jordanians are continuing. according to informed sources. Another explanation to the

continued demand for the Swiss" bill was provided by economist and columnist Fahed Fanek. "In many cases, prior to the

invalidation of the currency, speculators opted to keep their holdings of Iraqi dinars with the moneychangers," Dr. Fanek said. "Many of the moneychangers sold part of the holdings when the prices were high without informing their actual owners.

"Now the moneychangers are buying in the market so that they can fulfill their obligation of having to return the banknotes to their own-

Yet another scenario was painted by dealers and businessmen, who said they detected two distinct trends in the market: One to buy 'Swiss" notes bearing a photo of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the other for the same. British-printed, notes carrying a photo of an Arab

They said the notes with the Saddam photos could be the focus of those who hope to use their influence in Baghdad to get compensation, while the bills which carry the photo of horse could be destined for northern Iraqi territory under the control of rebel Kurds.

"Some speculators are hoping to move the bills to the Kurds with hopes that they could be compensated by the U.N.," said a dealer at a commercial bank which does not include Iraqi dinars in its dealings but keeps a close watch on market movements.

Excluded in last week's Iraqi exchange arrangement for the currency was the rebelcontrolled northern zone, where only the "Swiss" notes were in circulation since the separatist Kurds in the area. refused to use the "askari" notes printed by the Iraqi government during and after the Gulf crisis which was sparked by the 1990 invasion of

the currency crisis, and specu-

lators seem to be betting that

the world body might oblige

with some form of compensa-

The Kurds have appealed to: the United Nations for help in

tion for the invalidated bank-No signs of such a U.N.

move have appeared so far, and the world body has not made any public comment on the issue. But the Kurds have made an inventory, including the serial numbers of the "Swiss" notes in their territory, in anticipation of U.N. intervention to help them. No definite figures have

been released on the volume of the currency held by the Kurds, but reports speak of serious confusion among the residents of the area, which is under the protection of the American-led allies which fought Iraq in the war over Several problems face specu-

lators in Jordan who might be hoping to get their hoard of away Iranians appearing at their doorstep with truckloads of "Swiss" notes last week.

"Swiss" notes to northern Iraq to add to the Kurds' holdings expecting U.N. compensation - that is, if they get coopera-tion from the Kurds, who have reportedly already turned

But the first hurdle is to get

the currency out of Jordan.

market.

open," said a moneychanger. It all depends on how the Central Bank of Jordan will look at the issue: Whether it will grant permission for the currency to be taken out of Jordan.

No CBJ official was immediately available for comment. Dr. Fanek, the economist,

said the idea was plausible, but pointed out that the flow of "Swiss" notes to the Kurds would not be limited to the sources in Jordan. "Billions of the currency will

find their way to the north of Iraq through Turkey from the Gulf speculators, flooding the market and creating chaos in inflation," he said.

Meanwhile, it is business as usual for Iraq's "askari" (military) banknotes in the local The "askari" bills, printed

by the Iraqi armed forces (hence the name) "to pay gov-ernment salaries and finance reconstruction after the Gulf war, were shunned by many in Jordan prior to the withdrawal of the "Swiss" notes, since they believed that these would be the first to be cancelled in a

sanctions-free Iraq.
Most of the "askari" notes
printed in early 1991, shortly after the war, are believed to be photocopies from some of the advanced colour photocopiers produced at that time.

However, clever forgeries pose a major problem for spe-culators who invest in the 'askari" notes.

There has not been any serious refutal of Iraqi charges after the Gulf war that Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were engaged in large-scale counterfeiting of Iraqi banknotes and flooding the market with the forged bills in a bid to further destabilise the Iraqi economy.

Currency experts said Iraq's own "askari" notes were haphazardly printed, with little uniformity among those notes which was printed at different stages in the past two years, and as such it was difficult to identify forgeries.

"In fact some dealers automatically reject better-printed notes saying such bills could not possibly be produced by the Iraqi government," said one expert.